



Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-95-202
Thursday
19 October 1995

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NOTICE: An * indicates material not previously disseminated in electronic form.

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Key Developments

Signatures of 10 Parties 'Under Scrutiny' at CEC

LD1810221495 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1910 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 18 (INTERFAX) — Signatures in support of federal lists of candidates nominated by 10 parties are under scrutiny in the Central Electoral Commission [CEC], its member Olga Zastrozhnaya told INTERFAX.

These parties are Tikhonov-Tupolev-Tikhonov Bloc, Ivan Rybkin's Bloc, Our Home Is Russia, Independents' Bloc, the Agrarian Party of Russia, the Popular Union, the Beer Lovers' Party, Russia's Trade Unions and Industrialists-Labor Union, Common Cause and Forward Russia!

The CEC had earlier registered the federal lists of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, the Congress of Russian Communities, Women of Russia and the Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia.

Following the registration, the parties have a right to start their campaigns.

KRO Leader Skokov Invited to China for Working Visit

LD1610194695 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1851 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 16 (INTERFAX) — Yuriy Skokov, the leader of the Congress of Russian Communities and chairman of the Goods Producers' Federation, flew to China Monday to meet with officials from all branches of power.

He told INTERFAX in the airport that he was invited to make a working visit to China by "representatives of the Chinese leadership" but declined to say what issues he will discuss there.

Chinese Ambassador Li Fenglin was seeing Skokov off. The two men had a four hour talk the day before.

According to a poll taken by the Public Opinion Fund, the Congress of Russian Communities occupies third place in the popularity rating in the run up to State Duma elections scheduled for December 12.

Sources in Skokov's headquarters told INTERFAX that an understanding on his trip to China had been reached 6 weeks ago but the date of the trip was not announced.

Farmers' Daily Welcomes KRO Election Platform

MM1810114895 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN
in Russian 17 Oct 95 p 2

[Article by Yevgeniy Veretennikov under the "Elections-95" rubric: "Control in Which Everyone Is Interested"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The election race is gathering pace. Politicians aspiring to seats in the future State Duma are presenting their platforms to the voters, seeking to secure their support, and are asserting their readiness to carry out the will and instructions of the voters.

But of all those who are talking and promising, perhaps only the Congress of Russian Communities [KRO] offers a real mechanism for monitoring the fulfillment of these instructions.

Only recently this association was the "dark horse" in the election race, and it was a surprise to many people when it broke away from the pack to join the leaders. But this success is no fluke. It stems above all from the fact that the Congress is not a party created "in its leader's image" but a movement formed naturally "from below" — initially in countries of the Near Abroad, then in Russia itself — with the aim of really helping people to resolve their specific problems. At the same time it should be noted that, unlike the majority of parties and movements which hide away their programs in their offices, the KRO is elaborating its strategic program actually on the basis of the people's instructions, gathered at local level, which are to be included in the movement's election documents; and the first stage of monitoring their fulfillment is the fact that any voter can study these documents and see whether his instruction is included. Thus, Dmitriy Rogozin, chairman of the KRO Executive Committee, says, "the widest strata of the population are to be involved in resolving both local and state problems." Let us remark that the KRO's "open forums" will also be held after the elections on a permanent basis, continuing the collection of the people's instructions.

Naturally, the opinions of the broadest strata and social groups of Russian society have been placed at the basis of the association's election platform. After all, the platform will only be fully valid and effective if it reflects the interests of workers, peasants, entrepreneurs, and representatives of the scientific and creative intelligentsia, and also the regions. And the Congress is holding a whole series of theoretical and practical conferences devoted to resolving the major problems plaguing Russian society — overcoming the economic crisis, improving the environment, and developing science and

culture. Representatives of various corporative and professional associations, public movements, and state organs are being invited to take part in these conferences. In particular, a conference devoted to the solution of economic problems was organized by the KRO in conjunction with the Federation of Commodity Producers, the Association of Russian Banks, and the State Duma Committee for Economic Policy. The ideas expressed at this and other conferences are also lodged at the basis of the KRO program.

However, the fulfillment of society's instructions cannot be limited just to the inclusion of the relevant provisions in election programs. A mechanism for monitoring the fulfillment of these programs and a concrete legislative mechanism through which society can monitor politicians are necessary. At the present time the voters effectively do not even have the right to recall a deputy who has disgraced himself, and the State Duma's constant refusals to give its consent to the institution of proceedings against people's deputies who have been detected in illegal activity have long ceased to be a novelty.

The current authorities, including the legislature, which has lost touch with the people, are effectively not under the people's control. And is this not the major factor which made possible December 1991, October 1993, and December 1994? The KRO's leaders believe that the Congress' open forums, which bring people together to resolve their own problems, should be an important factor enabling people to influence the authorities. The voice of the many will be heard better than the voice of the few. But for this it is important to unite, to recreate the sense of community which in the past always characterized Russian society.

In this respect the KRO's plan in the future State Duma to seek to make it possible for voters to recall a deputy and to create a mechanism curbing the abuse of a deputy's immunity are worthy of attention. Only when the authorities know that they are under the daily observation of society will those authorities refrain from on irresponsible actions. And we are all — both politicians and society — interested in creating that kind of control.

Agrarians Criticize Current Reforms; Call For Support

MM1810112595 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN
in Russian 17 Oct 95 p 2

["Statement by the Organizational Assembly for the Creation of the 'Agrarian Movement of Russia,'"

adopted 12 October: "To All Who Cherish Russia's Interests"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As employees in the agricultural, fishing, forestry, and water industries and related sectors of industry and of environmental protection agencies, science, education, health care, and social organizations, we consider it our duty to express our profound anxiety over the state of affairs in the agrarian sector of Russia's economy.

The reforms being carried out in the agrarian sector have led to the destruction of the rural economy and to a significant decline in production. In recent years capital investments in agriculture have been sharply reduced, equipment supplies have fallen more than fourfold, and the use of fertilizers and plant protection agents has decreased many times over. The liberalization of prices is being accompanied by a sharp disparity in the prices of industrial and agricultural output and the destruction of the system of payments and mutual settlements. It is becoming unprofitable for agricultural commodity producers to engage in production. The area under crops is shrinking, as are the numbers of livestock and poultry, and the productivity of fields and farmsteads is decreasing.

The economic crisis in the countryside has affected virtually every Russian — chemical industry and agricultural machine building plants and other industrial enterprises are shutting down. And they are stopping production not because their output is not wanted, but because peasants cannot buy it.

Drainage and road works in the countryside have effectively been halted; the construction of industrial, social, and environmental protection facilities is in abeyance. And this means that the inhabitants of many small cities and workers' settlements are out of work.

The living standards of rural inhabitants are deteriorating. The rural population is aging and the birth rate is falling. Cultural centers and libraries, children's preschool establishments, clinics, and hospitals are closing. The service sector is declining. Rural inhabitants are losing their faith in the future.

The process of the destruction of Russia's agricultural production and related sectors, the social sphere, culture, education, health care, and the rural way of life itself is acquiring an irreversible character. This could lead to Russia's becoming dependent on other countries for food and to a substantial weakening of our state's standing and prestige. The current development of the situation in the countryside threatens to bring about the degradation of the peasantry, which has for centuries

been the cornerstone of Russia's cultural and moral values.

In the current political conditions the fundamental interests of the countryside and laborers of the agro-industrial complex are quite distinct from the interests of the majority of political movements and parties which are limbering up for the battle for seats in parliament.

The interests of the agrarian sector and related sectors are reflected most comprehensively by the "Agrarian Party of Russia" electoral association, which sets itself the task of overcoming the crisis faced by Russia's peasantry.

However, the election campaign will take place in difficult conditions for agrarians: strong political competition from other political parties, blocs, and associations and a shortage of information and resources.

This situation can be altered radically only given energetic support for the agrarians from public organizations and brought strata of the population.

Hence we call on all those who understand that there cannot be a strong and prosperous Fatherland without a robust countryside and a developed agro-industrial complex to unite in a broad public movement in support of the "Agrarian Party of Russia" election association.

We invite all who cherish Russia's interests to join the ranks of this public movement: peasants, the rural and scientific intelligentsia, political parties, trade unions, young people, servicemen, and cossacks; employees in the reprocessing industry, the fishing, forestry, and water industries; in agricultural machine building and consumer cooperatives; land surveyors, meteorologists, and environmental protection workers; employees of the chemical industry, procurement organizations, and other sectors connected in one way or another with the food complex.

By joining together we will be able to ensure that in the forthcoming elections agrarians obtain sufficient representation in the country's legislative organ. And this means that we will be able to implement a program for the revival of the countryside, to give work to chemists and machine builders, to metallurgists and miners, and to transport workers and power workers, to really begin overcoming the country's economic crisis, and on this basis to improve the lives of every single Russian.

We are ready for dialogue and for constructive cooperation with the state power bodies and with different parties, movements, and public organizations.

Our movement stands for the consolidation of the progressive forces of town and country and calls on all

sociopolitical forces sincerely interested in reviving the Russian countryside and in securing the Fatherland's prosperity to support the "Agrarian Party of Russia" electoral association in the State Duma elections.

We hope that our voice will be heard and that our initiative will meet with the active support of the Russian people.

Adopted by the organizational assembly of representatives 12 October 1995.

CPRF Duma Faction Denounces 'Provoking' Media Stories

*MM1810151995 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
18 Oct 95 p 2*

["Own information" report: "Slanderers Rebuffed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Communists have not yet led the working people to power as set out in their election platform, but people are already being threatened with them. S. Belyayev, leader of the "Russia Is Our Home" headquarters, bluntly calls them political enemies to whom no good will come. Provoking items are appearing in a number of mass media. The CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] faction in the State Duma regards these statements and publications as an insult to the 1.5 million Russians who have already signed up in support of the "Communist Party of the Russian Federation" electoral bloc.

The CPRF faction states that any attempts to denigrate the Communist Party or distort its true position in voters' eyes, wherever they come from, will be resolutely rebuffed. It is drawing the Central Electoral Commission's attention to the impermissible election campaigning methods.

Nuykin, Bunich Leave 'Russia's Choice' Duma Faction

*MK1810063695 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY
KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 17 Oct 95 p 3*

[Report by A. Kh.: "Nuykin and Bunich Have Made Their Choice"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "Russia's Choice" Duma faction lost two more of its members, and not "the worst" ones, a few days ago. This time Andrey Nuykin, a well-known publicist, and Pavel Bunich, a no less renowned economist, parted with "Russia's Choice."

In an interview with MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, Andrey Nuykin said that the "divorce" was caused by differences on a number of questions, primarily concerning Chechnya. As is known, "Russia's

Choice" holds that the Chechnya campaign ought not to have taken place, whereas Nuykin claims the contrary.

"I am no drifter, and have never run away from anything," said Nuykin. "But the faction leadership took a stand most disloyal to me. Not long ago, for instance, I was told that I had best not count on support from "Russia's Choice" in the election. Therefore, I will have to run as an independent candidate."

A situation nearly similar to that was the reason for Pavel Bunich's withdrawal. However, this time it was to be blamed on economic, not political differences. It should be recalled that Nuykin and Bunich are not the first swallows to leave "Russia's Choice" for freedom. At different times, such personalities as Ella Pamfilova, Gennadiy Burbulis, and Andrey Makarov have left it. The list could obviously be extended in the near future.

Military Plans To Win 'Large Amount of Seats' in Duma

LD1810110895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1101 GMT 18 Oct 95

[By Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 18 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian military are set to win a large amount of seats in the State Duma in the December elections.

More than 120 servicemen have collected the required number of signatures and registered to run in the first-past-the-post constituencies, a member of the Defence Ministry's working group for preparations for the parliamentary elections told ITAR-TASS today.

According to him, the Ministry has information about the candidates in the constituencies which represent interests of the military-industrial complex, organisations of veterans, and retired servicemen. There are more than one thousand such candidates. Each of them has collected 5,000 signatures in their support, which means that more than five million Russian voters back the military structures.

The military source said that was enough to create a group of independent candidates from among the military.

As is known, the army is now seeking to build its own lobbying group in the State Duma. It now has a chance of accomplishing the task, sources in the defence Ministry said.

According to the military, their electorate now comprises more than 7 million servicemen, their families, parents and close relations.

Among those prospective voters who are likely to cast their ballots in favour of uniform-clad candidates are also army and World War II veterans, who number about eight millions. In addition, more than 27 million workers and employees of the military-industrial complex and their families are likely to back candidates from among the military.

The Defence Ministry source pointed out that the Russian Cossacks numbering almost two million people were gravitating towards the military.

The army with its rigid centralisation and manageability can exercise a serious influence on the election campaign and its outcome and eventually act as a party of force, the source in the Defence Ministry said.

Daily Examines Malpractices in Signature Collection

MM1810131495 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
18 Oct 95 p 2

[Article by Sergey Chugayev: "Large-Scale Purchase of Voters' Signatures for Dollars"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A new form of business is accompanying the present election campaign — the purchase of signatures. But this is merely a warm-up before the presidential elections, when, according to experts' forecasts, the starting price of a single signature will be \$5.

A little while ago in the center of Moscow, on Tverskoy Boulevard, there appeared a beer barrel on which a man stood and urged citizens to provide signatures in support of the Beer Lovers' Party. According to party representatives, they obtained two signatures a minute. That is one example of the collection of signatures, and practice shows that they can be collected honestly. Let us call them "white" signatures. But in order to do this you need, first, a multitude of supporters and sympathizers to do the donkeywork and, second, a ramified regional structure. Such possibilities are enjoyed by a very limited number of parties and movements, mostly the ones that took part in the last elections. It is a question primarily of the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation], DVR [Russia's Democratic Choice], DPR [Democratic Party of Russia], and the Republicans. The remainder are compelled to use professional signature collectors — for payment, naturally.

Professional collectors do not make the rounds of voters' apartments, but endeavor to gain access to a database. The specific nature of the client is taken into account. Thus, according to certain information, collectors working for S. Fedorov's association collect

signatures at hospitals and polyclinics, and "Women of Russia" work "women's" educational establishments, usually teacher training colleges, with whose leadership the movement has good relations. In some cases the collectors question people, but sometimes they use ready-made lists of patients or students. Things are even simpler when it comes to duped investors (K. Borovoy is said to have already reaped the entire "harvest" here).

The danger of falsification increases sharply here. Essentially, these are "gray" signatures and around 20 percent of them are usually scrapped by the parties themselves even before the lists are presented to the Central Electoral Commission.

Before the start of the election campaign the Russian record cost of a single signature in support of a candidate was set in the gubernatorial elections in Yekaterinburg — 7,000 rubles [R]. According to our information, the current election campaign began with the modest figure of R1,000 per signature (so far as we are aware, that is what "Russia Is Our Home" agreed with collectors). However, the rates are rising rapidly. Today collectors are demanding R5,000 from clients on average. There are reports that in St. Petersburg V. Shcherbakov's bloc is now paying collectors \$3 per signature. In experts' opinion, this is not the upper limit, and closer to the end of the process the price will rise to \$4-5. But no more because the contenders' budget simply will not stand any more than that.

Specialists claim that professional collectors are now holding ready-made packages of signatures (primarily for candidates in single-seat districts) and awaiting the maximum market price. These are "black" signatures in a very real sense. There is some information that immediately after the last parliamentary elections some of their organizers appreciated the potential and in advance accessed various databases containing information about voters. Primarily at housing operation boards. Lists of residents and their passport details have been photocopied. The signatures have been forged. The sample cost of a package is \$4,000-\$5,000.

There are also other methods. The most objectionable was noted by our informants in Krasnodar Kray, in the village of Konevskaya. There the kolkhoz leadership put an Agrarian Party signature sheet alongside the wage payment list. Others are less direct in their actions. In Voronezh LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] activists made the rounds of apartment block lobbies and asked the residents whether they wanted their lobby repaired. They asked anyone who did to indicate their passport details and sign. Then the party "heading" was stuck on the completed signature sheet and the document was sent to Moscow.

The last elections also saw the emergence of an original method — the exchange of signatures. For instance, two weak but friendly parties have each collected 100,000 signatures. But they need 200,000. The parties exchange packages, and each has the requisite number.

The method of administratively blocking rivals has also been tried out and is in operation. Thus, according to our information, in Belgorod, Arkhangelsk, and Chita representatives of the Army and police have received secret directives forbidding them to provide signatures for anyone they like. There is information that at some defense enterprises in Altay Kray FSB [Federal Security Service] representatives told workers to pause for thought — they could sign up or be fired.

However, the most common method of increasing the number of signatures is believed to be diluting "fresh" signatures with ones collected back at the last elections. As a rule, most of the parties and movements that took part in the election race of two years ago are doing this.

From all the above it is clear that the major parties and movements that took part in the last elections have an indisputable advantage at the signature collection stage. They have regional structures, databases, and their own propaganda and analysis services and staff. While the weaker parties and movements are inevitably easy prey for people of a new profession in Russia — specialists in organizing elections.

Today in the country there are several rival so-called political consultation centers that promise to provide their clients with a full range of election services — from collecting signatures to organizing appearances in the mass media — in exchange for a certain sum (a center's work in a single electoral district currently costs around \$200,000). The laziest clients can have an election program written for an extra payment. The people working in these centers are usually former journalists and political camp followers who scented big money during the last elections. For instance, we know of the Association of Expert Consultants and the "Nikola 'M'" Center (one of the most expensive). Someone who enjoys prestige among specialists is Ye. Ostrovskiy (it was he who organized Ye. Mavrodi's campaign in Kolomna during the Duma by-elections, and he originated the idea of concluding a contract between voter and candidate).

The editorial office has a price list for the election services of one such organization. It contains seven items, including signature collection (\$20,000). The "Mass Media — Newspapers, Magazines, Radio" item is interesting: For \$16,000 the organization guarantees the candidate "seven long interviews in newspapers, smaller

articles, and 10 radio interviews." The total cost of the services is \$197,000.

However, for the most serious organizations these parliamentary elections are no more than a warm-up. More serious work lies ahead — the presidential elections. So far as we are aware, the "centers" have already begun preparing for them. At any rate, the collection of a voter database is already in full swing. Contenders for the post of head of state will have to collect 1 million signatures each. The starting prices, according to specialists' forecasts, will be \$5.

Regional Activities

Dudayev Said To Be Possible Candidate in Duma Elections

LD1810122795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1125 GMT 18 Oct 95

[By Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNY, October 18 (ITAR-TASS) — "I don't rule out the possibility that Dzhokhar Dudayev will come forward as candidate to the Russian State Duma during the upcoming elections," ITAR-TASS was told by Abdul-Kiri Arsakhanov, Chairman of the Chechen Elections Commission. "But I have no trustworthy information yet concerning his plans," he added.

According to Arsakhanov, Dudayev's men have stepped up their preparations for the Chechen elections, although they have formally denounced them. Supporters of the rebel general are trying to get their men into the territorial and district elections commission in the lowland areas of the republic.

"We are not preventing them from doing it, since they have declared that there can be no political division of our society," Arsakhanov pointed out.

The Chechen Republic is to elect one member of the Russian State Duma from its territorial election district. Eighteen candidates have been registered so far. In Arsakhanov's opinion, there is nothing to prevent the preparations for elections in Chechnya in the present situation. "However," he said, "there will be no elections in Chechnya if the illegal armed units fail to surrender their weapons by the end of November".

Buryat Peasants Back Agrarians' Lapshin on Land Issue

MK1910091495 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
18 Oct 95 p 2

[Unattributed untitled report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ulan-Ude — Agricultural lands cannot be bought or sold. Such is the key item in a resolution of the [Buryat] republic's rural assembly held in Ulan-Ude. The forum delegates supported the stance of the APR [Agrarian Party of Russia] set forth by party leader Mikhail Lapshin. He also announced that there "has emerged some resemblance of the positions of Russian Federation Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and the APR on the land question." At the same time, Mr. Lapshin urged the assembly participants to "harbor no illusions and never relax the peasants' pressure both upon the government and the faction of land profiteers in the parliament."

Filatov Addresses Regional Media Heads on Election Coverage

MM1810092895 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI
in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Nikita Dubrov: "Air Time Is for Viewers, Not for Politicians"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The All-Russia Conference of Chairmen of Regional Television and Radio Broadcasting Companies was addressed by Russian Presidential Chief of Staff Sergey Filatov. He expressed profound concern that, given the plethora of parties and movements, voters have a bad idea of the difference between them. It is mainly pensioners and those who are unhappy with the results of reforms who may turn out at the polling stations and vote for the opposition. But prosperous people may ignore the elections. According to the speaker, it is also alarming that there is no mechanism making it possible to keep a track of how far parties' and movements' declarations and slogans match their actions. The national patriots, for instance, proclaim splendid ideas, but when you attend one of their rallies you hear calls for violence, which fuel ethnic hostility. There are clear breaches of the Constitution, and they must be dealt with by the law.

The conference said with disquiet that the Army must not under any circumstances be politicized. This was stated by Central Electoral Commission Chairman N. Ryabov and O. Poptsov, chairman of the All-Russia Television and Radio Broadcasting Company. Sergey Filatov shared this alarm, saying that the depoliticization of the Army had frequently been proclaimed, but there was an extremely dangerous trend developing. A large

number of military candidates had been recorded on party lists in many electoral districts, and sometimes candidates from the same unit were being registered by parties and blocs that were at loggerheads.

Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin sent a greetings message to the conference. It said that the interests of the ordinary viewer and listener, the ordinary Russian citizen rather than individual politicians or parties should be the best guideline when making television and radio programs during the election period.

PRAVDA Criticizes Filatov's Remarks

MM1810144295 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
18 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Vishnyakov: "'Masters' Quake"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leaders of regional state television and radio companies met in Moscow for an all-Russia conference. They evidently assembled to discuss their acute problems, of which many have accumulated. In practice, however, the conference frequently switched to another genre — a seminar on the election campaign's organization on the air. Presidential Chief of Staff Sergey Filatov's speech shocked everybody.

Without batting an eyelid he stated that victory in the Duma elections for those forces that want to abolish the existing Constitution and demand the reverse nationalization of avariciously privatized property will mean...civil war. No more and no less.

A remarkable statement. The official from the president's inner circle essentially acknowledged the complete collapse of the present Russian "democratism." Second, by instructing television workers how the election campaign should be conducted, Filatov actually demonstrated how its rules should be broken. Third, he discovered the sheer terror which secretly torments the current "masters" prior to the country's turn toward genuine democracy.

Marx wrote about this fear with genius in his "Manifesto": "Let the ruling classes quake".... Yes, let them!

Forecasts & Commentary

Daily Assesses Rybkin Bloc's Election Chances

MM1910091995 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI
in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 3

[Article by ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI analytical service: "Ivan Rybkin's Electoral Bloc: Three Months On"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Almost three months ago the ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI analytical service had already addressed the problems of creating a left-centrist bloc

and dwelled in detail on the complexities yet to come in its formation and its immediate and future prospects. This item was mostly of a theoretical nature since at that point the outlines of the bloc were only emerging and it existed only hypothetically and was not even registered by the Central Electoral Commission.

Now the first and hardest organizational period of the long-suffering left-wing bloc seems to have been completed and in the future ballot slip it will feature under the name "Ivan Rybkin's bloc."

The changes in the political situation and the specific features of the left-centrist bloc's organizational period, which have mainly confirmed the basic provisions of the previous item, provide additional information for analyzing its prospects in the forthcoming election struggle.

Let us briefly recall the thrust of the previous item. The creation of a left-centrist coalition in Russia is connected with a number of difficulties that are of both an objective and subjective nature. The objective difficulties are that as of today the electorate contains only an extremely small proportion of the middle class, which is the real bearer of social-democratic values and traditions, thus comprising the social basis and ideological foundation of left-centrism. The main "subjective" difficulties are connected with the fact that the leaders, parties, and movements of this spectrum are most numerous and at the same time the latter (in contrast to the leaders) are numerically small and — again all together — least popular among the population. So it was forecast that their success or, in this case, the success of Rybkin's bloc would largely depend on whether he was able to unite these disparate forces under the new bloc's banner.

Three months ago we noted that Rybkin did not have much chance of resolving this historic task for various reasons, including pre-existing [predvkhodyashchiye] ones. So the prospects of a struggle to overcome the 5-percent barrier was considered the most likely.

It should be noted that the past three months have, naturally, without eliminating the objective difficulties, aggravated the subjective ones. Having stated in July that over 50 parties, movements, and public organizations would take part in the bloc's constituent congress, Rybkin obviously hoped to implement his maximum task: Uniting all existing forces of left-centrist orientation from Lapshin's Agrarian Party and Shcherbakov's industrial party, both close to him, to the all-Russian Zemstvo Movement and the Union of Small Russian Cities.

Theoretically and tactically this was an understandably and strategically correct desire, but in practice it proved

very vulnerable and in reality unfeasible. The first to drop out of the bloc's proposed list, without even lasting to the constituent assembly, were the Agrarian Party and the Russian Social Democratic Union. This was a very palpable loss, but two quite powerful left-centrist blocs were still left for the bloc's real support — Shmakov's trade unions and Shcherbakov's United Industrial Party. But then they also (literally on the eve of the congress) abandoned the coalition.

Losing what were essentially its most powerful allies — the Agrarian Party of Russia, the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, and the United Industrial Party — Rybkin is undertaking a new ploy, perhaps the only correct one in this situation. He is sharply rejecting the attempt to unite the scattered left-centrist forces and in general is relegating to the background the problem of the bloc's ideology and, obviously following a general tendency and tactics, is counting on popular and recognizable personalities.

Initially the approved "Ivan Rybkin's bloc" federal list was seen as very impressive, not inferior in the quality of its personalities to "Russia Is Our Home." It is true that at the same time the bloc began "somehow imperceptibly" to move increasingly away from the social-democratic paradigm and in general away from an opposition stance. Let us recall that at first it included Colonel General Gromov, Academician Shatalin, the well known singer and businessman Kobzon, Poptsov, chairman of the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, Rodionov, president of the "Imperial" bank, and many other quite illustrious personalities.

For a while the misleading impression arose that despite the numerous difficulties and the unfavorable political distribution of forces, Ivan Rybkin had succeeded in achieving the goal that had been set (albeit not by himself) — creating a not very left-centrist but nonetheless sufficiently competitive bloc to which he sacrificially lent his name, in fact depriving it of a specific name (and that in itself was already highly symptomatic). But just a few days later the speaker received yet another "friendly blow" from his own fellow fighters: Accusing him of being insufficiently opposition-minded and of lacking political will, the "My Fatherland" association, which had essentially created a constellation of well known names for the entire bloc (Gromov, Shatalin, Shmelev, Kobzon, and others) left the bloc. This fact, easily explained from the positions of the crisis of leadership in the left-centrist movement, for all the rest can hardly be considered farsighted for "My Fatherland."

In late September the Rybkin bloc's yet again corrected general federal list was nonetheless sent to the Central Electoral Commission. This list had 270 candidates

which even from the viewpoint of ordinary common sense is perplexing — what did the people who agreed to run under numbers 100, 200, and so forth hope to achieve? Particularly if you consider that the bloc is nominating more than 160 more candidate deputies for the single-seat districts. The first 10 names on the list are headed, naturally, by Ivan Rybkin himself and then by Yuriy Petrov, chairman of the Union of Realists, and Artur Chilingarov, vice speaker of the State Duma and cochairman of the "Regions of Russia" movement, whose names are known only to a few. The bloc's list was also joined by representatives of the Independent Trade Union of Miners, the Russian Youth Union, the Russian Union of Cities, the "Imperial" bank, the Foundation for war and Afghanistan invalids, and other numerous personalities still less familiar to the electorate.

Let us sum up a few results. As a result of the three months of clashes, "Ivan Rybkin's bloc" has nonetheless been created and registered. Moreover, it is one of the most numerically strong: Outstripping numerically even veterans of the Russian political scene like "Yabloko" and "Russia's Democratic Choice-United Democrats," it is on par with "Russia Is Our Home" and the Agrarian Party. But let us emphasize that this advantage is only on the lists and has nothing to do with the numbers of the potential electorate or the bloc's popularity.

Among its few plus points, we can include the fact that despite the bloc's long existence in a state of upheaval Sergey Rodionov, president of the "Imperial" bank, has not left the bloc and that means the financial problems of the election campaign will be on a more or less professional level.

Counter to the opinion that is being actively mooted that Boris Yeltsin has lost interest in the "left-hand party" in the shape of "Ivan Rybkin's bloc," and the related suggestion that the president's support for the bloc is weakening, the inclusion in the bloc's federal list of Borodin, administrator of affairs in the president's staff (far from the least man in the head of state's entourage) allows one to suppose that there are no serious grounds for such beliefs.

At the same time it is quite surprising that despite all the strategic and tactical political blunders during the bloc's emergency creation and the charges of political amorphousness and personal inaction leveled by its former allies, the ratings of Ivan Rybkin, the movement's blatantly uncharismatic leader, as various sociological studies show, remains quite stable. Although this is a question for sociologists rather than for the reader.

This brief list perhaps exhausts all the achievements of the left-centrist bloc in the period under review. The

list of losses seems incomparably bigger and it would be rash to speak of any hopeful prospects for "Ivan Rybkin's Bloc."

First, Rybkin has not managed to resolve the "maximum task" of uniting around himself all potential left-centrists. His appointment as leader of the left center was a cadres error of the kind traditional for Russia. Moreover, the indirect result of his unifying activity has been the fact that the large left-centrist forces that have split from the bloc (Lipitskiy's Social Democratic Union, Shcherbakov's Russian United Industrial Party, Shmakov's trade unions, the "My Fatherland" movement) have also proved unable to unite, acting independently, and are objectively dissipating the votes of the electorate of that part of the political spectrum. As a result, a situation may take shape in which the left-centrist forces will not be represented at all in the new parliament.

Second, the changes in tactics, as well as the gamble not on ideology and the organizational structures of left-centrist orientation but on well known and popular personalities, have proved mistaken. With the departure of the "My Fatherland" movement, all personalities of any illustriousness have disappeared. Neither the first 10 people on the bloc's federal list nor the more than 400 candidates nominated from the bloc enjoy nationwide love, simple recognition, or even personal renown. They do not differ from each other and will hardly be able to bring tangible success to the regions. Nor does the bloc have a single vivid, charismatic individual who would add something (for the present drastic period) to the shocking overcomplacency with everything that is happening. The bloc's leader simply lacks emotional expression.

Third, the bloc's political program and, in particular, the way it differs from that of the numerous other parties and movements that are competing on the same electoral field remain incomprehensible. As a result, the bloc now has graphic ideas and challenging slogans, which the voters comprehend and support. But it is still completely unclear what the bloc's left-centrism consists of and what its opposition stance is with regard to the president and government.

Fourth, with the departure from the bloc of movements and parties with ramified regional structures, there are no longer real levers of influence, propaganda, and agitation in the regions. Hopes pinned on the local authorities which with support from the president's staff or the local dumas and [words indistinct] would promote the bloc's campaign are hardly justified. The local organs of power have undoubtedly already long been concerned with what the closer and more important

problem of supporting "Russia Is Our Home...." The duma organs have their own problems and, in many regions, their own view of Russia's situation and future.

Nonetheless, one of the main conclusions of the previous analysis in particular that "Ivan Rybkin's bloc" can struggle to overcome the 5-percent barrier still seems correct as of early October. Potentially, for all its weaknesses, taking together all objective and subjective elements, it is among the strongest competitors from that part of the political spectrum. The problem is whether the bloc itself and its leader will be able to reveal and use this potential in the time remaining. If that task proves beyond them, then the idea at the basis of the bloc's creation will remain a hypothetically possible but theoretical model that is not very applicable to present-day Russian reality.

Article Analyzes Standing of Political Parties, Leaders

MM1910102295 *Moscow TRUD in Russian*
18 Oct 95 p 2

[Article by Candidate of Philosophical Sciences Olga Kryshatanovskaya, head of the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociology Sector for the Study of the Elite: "Political Patience Game 1995. What is the Deciding Factor? The Program or the Dear Leader?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ordinary people are far removed from politics. The average Russian man in the street can barely name five or six politicians. It is sometimes hard to imagine from atop the Moscow political Olympus what the ordinary people are thinking about or what ideas and associations are triggered in them by the names of those who decide the country's destiny. This is what the sociologists try to find out.

The Party and the Leader

There are two types of parties and leaders: The "collective" ones are the parties that have an ideology and whose leader's name and prestige play a secondary role. Supporters of these parties vote primarily for an idea, not for a specific politician.

Then there are parties that do not have an ideology (or rather, the ordinary people do not know what their ideology is) — these are "personality parties" because they are built solely on the leader's popularity.

Statistics provided by the All-Russia Center for the Study of Public Opinion on Social and Economic Questions (research conducted in June-August this year) make it possible to break all the current electoral blocs down into these two types — based on how ordinary people identify the party and its leader.

Rating showing identification of a party with its leader (in percentages)

Yavlinskiy — Yabloko	79.6
Gaydar — Russia's Democratic Choice	69.5
Chernomyrdin — Russia Is Our Home	64
Zhirinovskiy — Liberal Democratic Party of Russia	63.7
Rutskoy — "Derzhava"	63.5
B. Fedorov — "Forward, Russia!"	55.2
Shakhray — Party of Russian Unity and Accord	54.9
Zyuganov — Communist Party of the Russian Federation	51.7
Sv. Fedorov — People's Freedom Party	45.5
Lakhova — "Women of Russia"	18.7

"Collective Parties"

These include the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] and to some extent Russia's Democratic Choice. People who intend to vote for the Communists do not mind whether the party leader is Zyuganov or someone else.

Communism still remains the only ready-made ideology in Russia today. Only the Communist Party's supporters are confident that they know all the answers to life's questions. There is no credit to them for this, of course. The answers were provided long ago. The neocommunists of the nineties are repeating the precepts of Lenin and Stalin. The communist "formulas of life" — about the "great country," that we should "bring back the days when everyone feared us," that it is shameful to be rich, and so forth — are well known to everyone who lived under socialism.

A democratic ideology as a phenomenon of the mass consciousness does not exist. In Russia the ideas of democracy and pro-Westernism are virtually one and the same thing. The main idea of democracy is to live "like they do over there." The term "normal society" is taken to mean exclusively Western society. You will note that in any debate the democrats' main argument is: "That's how it is in the West."

The bulk of the Russian people are to be found between the "left" (communist) flank and the "right" (democratic) flank. These are people with a blend of ideas which could be called the "ideology of everyday values" (in the past we would have said — "bourgeois values"). In this ideology the supreme values are "a peaceful sky over our heads," "prevention of war," "ensurance of order," "prevention of theft," and, of course, acceptable prices

for sausages. Most people (and this includes the people of Russia) are not bothered about political wrangling. They are bothered about immediate everyday problems — the family, the apartment, the produce from the truck farm, and so on. So there you have it, Russian centrism, not as it is declared to be but as it really is.

If you apply the social structure to the political spectrum you get the following picture: The higher people's standard of education, the closer they move to the "right" or democratic end of the spectrum. The democrats' main support base is the intelligentsia, of course.

"Personality parties"

Parties of the other type do not have an ideology (if that is taken to mean a set of nonconflicting tenets reduced to a single system). These are political formations where the party and its leader have essentially merged into one and the departure of the leader means the disintegration of the party. The most graphic example of that is provided by the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] and Zhirinovskiy. According to the findings of the All-Russia Center for the Study of Public Opinion on Social and Economic Questions, 63.7 percent of people identify the LDPR with its leader.

But over the last year a new charismatic leader has appeared. This is Yavlinskiy, who is identified with Yabloko by an even greater number of people — 79.6 percent. People do not know what Yabloko's program is, nor do they remember whence this strange name is derived. They do not necessarily regard themselves as democrats. They just like Yavlinskiy.

Unlike the ideologically committed Communists (the supporters of the CPRF) or the ideologically commit-

ted democrats (the supporters of Russia's Democratic Choice), the Zhirinovskiyites are going to vote not for the Liberal Democrat idea (no one in our country knows what it is) but for Zhirinovskiy. The Yavlinskiy supporters will vote not for the Yabloko party program but for dear Grisha. Those who like Lebed support him whether he is in the Congress of Russian Communities or in the Dniester Region.

Leaders of this type are called charismatic and do not have "supporters" but admirers.

The Corporation of Women

There are special cases, too, such as the "Women of Russia" movement. They scored a sensational success in 1993. What happened — was Lenin's cook put in charge of the state? Or a "women's revolt" in a country where women had until then been elected solely "by quota" (that is, on the orders of the party organs)?

This is the explanation that the political scientists give in 1995 for the women's success in 1993: It was a rejection of choice [otkaz ot vybora], a gap between the right and the left.

The strength of "Women of Russia" lies in the fact that they are fundamentally apolitical. They support general human values and equal rights for men and women. While their politicized, ideologized election rivals discredit themselves in the heat of the debate by their excessively harsh word, their ill-considered actions, their hysterical outbursts, the calm, peace-loving women score points. They are that quiet backwater for the "middle class", the people whose thoughts are focused on their truck farm and on their pickle recipes, not on pro-Westernism and Slavophilia.

Only 18.7 percent of Russians regard Yekaterina Lakhova as the symbol of "Women of Russia." The strength of this movement lies not so much in its leader (no matter how charming that leader may be). Its strength lies in its corporate spirit: Russian women — what a force!

The Phantom of the "Government Party"

The "government party" is the phantom of political life in present-day Russia. All the active participants in the election are busy searching for it. Initially, in 1993, they

thought it was "Russia's Choice," then they decided that it was Party of Russian Unity and Accord [PRES]. This year there were stubborn rumors that "Russia Is Our Home" [NDR] had been appointed "the government party." Now it is being rumored from the Kremlin that the appointment of NDR was hasty and that "it is necessary to look again."

Chernomyrdin has been transformed from a prime minister into a public politician. The stakes are high here: It is a case of winner takes all.

That is why the president's team is hurriedly seeking other candidates. They must meet the following requirements at least: They must be devoted to the president; they must be fairly well known (because there is no time left to start from scratch here); and they must be less popular than the president himself.

The 5-Percent Duma

NDR will probably not remain "the government party" for long. There are no other serious contenders in the offing — the material to hand is frankly weak. If the process is left to take its own course the Duma majority will go to those forces opposed to the president (most probably the Communists, the Yavlinskiyites, and the Zhirinovskiyites).

Hence the idea of splitting the electorate by creating two dozen new blocs. They will each take a certain percentage of the vote, thus weakening both Chernomyrdin and the other strong parties. In that event the new Duma will consist of a multitude of parties each of which having 5 percent or slightly more than 5 percent of the votes. Consequently, it will not be possible to form strong factions straightaway. They will need time to form blocs, and the more parties there are in the Duma the longer it will take. Then the presidential elections in 1996 will be held against the background of a Duma in ferment. The interfactional struggle will discredit both the entire new Duma and the leaders of the victorious parties, who are traditionally accused of being mere blabbermouths who stop the president and the government getting on with the job.

In our opinion, Boris Yeltsin needs two conditions to win the 1996 presidential elections: a "5-percent Duma" and a new, less popular prime minister.

International Mediators Urge Serbs To Accept Moscow Plan*LD1810134195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1258 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[By Ivan Ivanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BELGRADE October 18 (Itar-Tass) — President Slobodan Milosevic on Wednesday held talks with international mediators in the Balkan peace process, representing Russia, the United States and the European Union — Russia's First Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke, and Carl Bildt, co-chairman of the Coordinating Committee of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia.

A communique on the results of the meeting, issued by the Office of the Serbian President, said the sides considered "major issues concerning preparations for and the holding of the forthcoming talks in the U.S." between Slobodan Milosevic, Franjo Tudjman and Alija Izetbegovic on the elaboration of documents about concluding peace in the Balkans.

The communique points out that it is only through joint efforts that an end to the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina can be achieved and the legitimate rights and interests of all its citizens, first of all, peace and freedom can be guaranteed.

At the close of the talks with Milosevic, the three mediators leave for Sarajevo for a meeting with Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic. They are also to meet with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman in Zagreb.

It has become known to the Itar-Tass correspondent from diplomatic sources that the international mediators, who arrived in Belgrade from Moscow after attending a meeting of the Contact Group on the Bosnian peace process, intend to win the backing of the Presidents of Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina for the scenario adopted at the Moscow meeting on Tuesday.

The essence of the scenario is that the peace negotiating process would begin tentatively on October 30 in Moscow where Milosevic, Tudjman and Izetbegovic will meet in the presence of Russian President Boris Yeltsin for the first-ever time over the years of the war in the Balkans. Then the three leaders would move to the U.S. to work out specific documents to settle the crisis. After that, a peace treaty is due to be signed in Paris.

It can be supposed that the results of the diplomats' current tour will become known only in several days' time. According to data available with the Itar-Tass correspondent, if the three presidents agree to the

suggested peace negotiations scheme, this may be officially announced in Moscow or Washington.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 19 Oct*LD1910082195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0726 GMT 19 Oct 95*

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW October 19 (Itar-Tass) — ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI, under the headline "Boris Yeltsin upholds the interests of low-income people and the deceived depositors" runs the text of a message from the President to State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin, giving reasons for turning down a Federal law "on the regulation of the wages and salaries of the personnel of the budget-supported sector".

In the message, the President maintains that this Law would be impracticable in view of the fact that neither the 1995 Federal budget nor the budgets of the subjects of the Russian Federation provide funds for the realization of measures suggested in the Federal Law. This would lead to "mounting social tension in the budget-supported sector," Yeltsin pointed out.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on the embezzlement of oil export revenue in Chechnya.

The newspaper runs an address by the leaders of three major institutions of higher learning in the Chechen Republic who have stated that the Dudayev regime has managed completely to wreck the national economy and put a large proportion of the population on the verge of poverty. Revenue from the sale of oil and oil products, which amounted, according to economists' estimates, to 800-900 million U.S. dollars annually, were embezzled.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on the same subject.

Publicist Andrey Nuykin, a member of the State Duma, believes that it is precisely the mafia that is mostly eager to "freeze the situation" when there is neither peace nor war and when Chechnya has not seceded but is uncontrollable.

Such a state of affairs promises tremendous benefits. The Shali heroin-producing line alone, according to "competent sources", used to turn out about 30 tonnes of the drug a year. Experts estimate that from 30,000 to 100,000 million USD are kept on accounts abroad run by the mafia which has its interests in Chechnya.

In IZVESTIYA, the newspaper's political news analysts Otto Lacis believes that the outcome of the forthcoming elections to the State Duma would be influenced not so much by optimistic evaluations of the socio-economic situation in Russia in January-September this year by

the State Committee for Statistics as by other indicators which are record-low — the real wages and monetary incomes of the population.

The working people engaged in the budget-supported sector have suffered most of all primarily in education and health services. The analyst arrives at a conclusion that "the Communists' road to power is being cleared by the authorities themselves."

IZVESTIYA on Presidential recommendation that Defence Minister attend court session.

"The Presidential piece of advice to the militant minister is more than just an accurate move", the newspaper points out in view of President Boris Yeltsin's recommending Defence Minister Pavel Grachev to reconsider his schedule so as to be able to attend a session of the court which examines his own suit against a journalist. The newspaper emphasises that the recommendation is a "highly accurate step by the Head of State and will serve to strengthen the President's prestige".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on the Contact Group meeting in Moscow.

Grigoriy Karasin, Chief of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department for the press and information, points out that despite rather cautious and sometimes pessimistic forecasts, the Moscow meeting of the Contact Group on Bosnia was an active and constructive stage phase of headway towards a peaceful settlement of the crisis in the former Yugoslavia.

The principal meaning of the meeting was to prepare for an international conference on the Yugoslav peace process, which is to begin at the end of October or early in November, Karasin said.

An assertion that Russia is being allegedly shoved aside or has already been pushed away from participating in the peace process, has become widespread with someone's help. However, the ceasefire in Bosnia would have been impossible without the supply of Russian gas, the Russian Foreign ministry spokesman said.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on an inquiry into allegations that AUM militants were trained by Russian special services.

"Russian special services trained militants from the sect AUM Shinri Kyo" is the headline of an article about the newspaper's own inquiry into the assertion. The inquiry began with the study of a leaflet which Aum cultists circulated at Japanese universities.

The leaflet announced a contest for a trip to Russia to take a special training course at one of shooting ranges near Moscow, offering an opportunity to fire from a submachine-gun and even a grenade launcher.

The Public Relations Centre of Russia's Federal Security Service has informed the newspaper that "these data have found no confirmation".

Yeltsin Interviewed on Nuclear Tests, Bosnia, NATO

*LD1810214095 Moscow Russian Public Television
First Channel Network in Russian
1827 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[Telebridge interview with President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow and France-2 TV correspondents Daniel Bilalian and Philippe Harrouard in Paris on 18 October; correspondents speak in French with superimposed Russian translation — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Bilalian] Hello, Mr. President. My name is Daniel Bilalian. Together with my colleague, Mr. Philippe Harrouard, we shall ask you a few questions.

First, thank you for your response to our invitation. We are ready for an interview with you.

The French certainly take much interest in Russian policy and relations between Russia and France and what President Boris Yeltsin, of whom we know so little, can say. Soon you are coming to France, and we would simply like to come to know you better and ask you a few questions about yourself and your country.

[Yeltsin] First, hello and, second, I believe that it is hardly likely that the French know me insufficiently. I have been to France many times, and there always are French people in Moscow and in Russia, and we also meet. So we have known each other since 1051 when Yaroslav the Wise's daughter married Henri I and they had a son, King Phillippe.

[Harrouard] The French are interested not only in Russia itself, they also in the health of Russian President Boris Yeltsin. This summer, you took a rather long holiday of a few weeks, which is quite a lot for a statesman. We would like to know: How is your health, Mr. President?

[Yeltsin] My holidays are no longer than those of any other president, including France's — about two or two and a half weeks. That's the first thing. As far as my health is concerned, when I'm in France I can challenge Mr. Jacques Chirac to a game of tennis. We'll see who wins and who is in the better health.

[Bilalian] Mr. President, soon there will be elections to your legislature. Opinion polls suggest that the votes will divide greatly. Can it happen that your future prime minister will not quite agree with your views?

[Yeltsin] The prime minister who is in office today completely agrees with my views and will not lay claim to the role of the president. We are in agreement on all points.

[Harrouard] Mr. President, is there any progress with economic reforms and your privatization program? What is the situation regarding the formation of a new class, the middle class?

[Yeltsin] A new class of rich people is actively coming into being. As for the middle class, at present its formation is going slowly. And the majority are poor at present.

[Harrouard] Mr. President, the French have two images of you — on the one hand, the image of you on a tank in August 1991 when you were regarded as the savior of democracy. The another is of Russian tanks in Chechnya. How do these images compare? Are these two different Boris Yeltsins?

[Yeltsin] The tanks are the same: T-72.

[Bilalian] What image of yourself would you like people to remember? I asked how compatible these two images were: Boris Yeltsin, defender of new democracy in Russia, and Boris Yeltsin, the person who has sent Russian tanks to the Chechen capital?

[Yeltsin] I understand you. Of course, I do not want the situation we had in Chechnya to repeat. And I think it will not be repeated.

[Bilalian] Mr. President, about Chechnya: the problem has not yet been resolved. The West is strongly criticizing a rather cruel war there. The talks have begun, but the problem has not been resolved. When will it be resolved?

[Yeltsin] We certainly criticize the West less when it engages a war somewhere and people, civilians, are being killed. We are a more peace-loving people, and therefore we do not get involved in this sort of fighting.

As regards Chechnya, one could certainly agree with criticism by Western states, that perhaps we could have resolved the matter avoiding the use of force. Incidentally, this is exactly the conclusion we have reached now — a peace settlement and peace talks. I think the process will end with peace talks. The elections to the Russian State Duma are to be held soon [17 December 1995] and representatives of the Chechen Republic will participate in them.

[Harrouard] Well, let us move on to relations between France and Russia. France has just taken the decision to temporarily resume its nuclear testing. What is your position regarding the French resumption of nuclear tests?

[Yeltsin] For many years now we have not been testing nuclear warheads or carrying out nuclear tests, and we

do not intend to revive these tests again. On the contrary at the United Nations...

[Bilalian, interrupting] But what do you think about the resumption of French nuclear tests? That was my question, and I should like to additionally ask whether you are among those criticizing the resumption of nuclear testing by France.

[Yeltsin] We shall be speaking about this when I meet Mr. Jacques Chirac.

[Harrouard] As far as I understand, you are not totally in agreement with it?

[Yeltsin] Nevertheless, what I do agree is that it is necessary to discuss this issue face to face and to hear his arguments. I have too much respect for Jacques Chirac. I have had meetings with him since even before he became president, and we have an excellent relationship, and I do not wish to place him in an awkward position. We shall discuss the matter and, I think, come to a decision that will satisfy East and West, so to speak, and the whole world.

[Harrouard] Mr. President, as you know, talks are at present being held on banning nuclear tests and a zero option — that is to say, the total elimination of nuclear weapons — is being discussed. What is Russia's position in this respect?

[Yeltsin] I am surprised by just one thing in this matter. Why is the United States being presented as the initiator of this issue? Several years ago, when I addressed the United States for the first time, I said: We favor a total ban on all kinds of nuclear tests, including underground ones. I proposed to the whole world: Let us sit down at the negotiating table. One, two, three, four years have passed since then. Now suddenly there is this initiative on the part of the United States, saying: Let us call on Russia, intractable Russia, and also China to halt too. I think this is quite unseemly. We have all along been in favor of a test ban. We are at the present time in favor of a test ban. At the present time we say: No altogether to nuclear weapons! We say that we are ready in general to sit down at the negotiating table to totally halt the production — not just the testing but the production — of nuclear weapons on earth and put an end to this cause of people's fear.

[Bilalian] Mr. President, we would now like to move on to the former Yugoslavia. America and NATO countries have taken specific decisions, as a result of which it would seem, peace is being restored in Bosnia, in particular. Russia, it seems, has given way somewhat [incomplete sentence as heard].

[Yeltsin] We are not planning to get into any kind of competition with the United States, and I think that the United States is not planning any kind of competition with Russia. Who did more? I, as Russia's president, think that Russia did more for the peacemaking effort than the United States, than France, than Britain, than Germany, or any other country.

That's what I think. And we will of course continue to support the policy that we have made — to achieve a peace settlement by negotiating about the issue and by holding a peace conference in Moscow in the first half of next year.

I think that this peace conference will finally resolve the issue, and there will be peace in Yugoslavia and Europe.

[Harrouard] When peace is restored in the former Yugoslavia and a multinational force is sent there under NATO auspices to uphold the peace, will Russia take part in this multinational force?

[Yeltsin] Under NATO? No. It would be no big deal if only the president were concerned about this. But our entire country is concerned. We know all about the bloc scenario, when there are two blocs in Europe that will inevitably, sometime, find some pretext to clash. That is the issue here. Right now, they want to take the countries of eastern, western, and central Europe and stuff them full of nuclear weapons on the Russian Federation's borders. Do you really think Russia will let that happen? No way. And again — no way.

[Harrouard] Mr. President, if these eastern European countries are successfully integrated into NATO, given a very close partnership between NATO and Russia, will it be possible to find some kind of accommodation, taking into account, of course, that NATO's role and essence will have to be redefined?

[Yeltsin] We and all the other countries have already done so much to destroy medium and long-range nuclear missiles. And to bring them back into eastern and central European countries is mindless. It is mindless for Europe. It will not mean security for Europe. Once again, I say — it is mindless. It is impermissible. And Russia will do all it can to stop it from happening.

[Bilalian] Mr. President, you arrive in France in the next few days. You are doubtless being kept informed about the wave of terrorism now sweeping across France. What do you think about this?

[Yeltsin] First, I would like to express my profound sympathy to the victims of these terrorist acts in your country, in the metro. It is, of course, terrible. We have also suffered in this way several times, we sense and see that this phenomenon affects not only Europe, not only

America, but other countries as well. I think it is time for us to pool our efforts in the fight against terrorism.

[Correspondents] Mr. President, thank you. You will be welcome in France during the visit you are planning. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President, for answering our questions so openly and with such feeling. Thank you.

[Yeltsin] Thank you. Until our next meeting.

Yeltsin: Nuclear Arms in E. Europe 'Madness'

*AU1810173295 Paris AFP in English
1708 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[Embargoed by AFP until 1845 GMT]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Moscow, Oct 18 (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday [18 October] accused NATO of wanting to station nuclear arms in eastern Europe as part of its expansion, and said such a move would be "madness."

In an interview with the French state television network France-2 broadcast on Russian TV, Yeltsin said: "They want to take the countries of eastern, western and central Europe and stuff them with nuclear arms.

"Will Russia permit this? No and no again."

"Too many countries have taken measures to eliminate nuclear weapons. To deploy them again in eastern and central Europe would be madness," Yeltsin said.

Denouncing plans by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation to expand into eastern Europe, Yeltsin said that "when there are two blocs in Europe, they inevitably find an excuse for confrontation." [passage omitted]

Yeltsin repeated that Russia would participate in a multi-national peace force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but "not under the aegis of NATO."

He also repeated his proposal for a ban on nuclear arms production, which he first put forward in September 1994 with the idea of a security charter among the five nuclear powers.

"We suggest that we sit down at the negotiating table to ban not only (nuclear) tests but the production of nuclear arms," Yeltsin said.

The Russian president, who is to visit France on Friday and Saturday, and then the United States until Tuesday, refused to comment on the decision by French President Jacques Chirac to resume nuclear testing.

"We must talk about it face-to-face, focus on the question and listen to his (Chirac's) arguments," Yeltsin said, refusing to elaborate "so as not to put Mr. Chirac in an uncomfortable position."

Yeltsin, who was looking healthy during the half-hour interview, has thrown several barbs at the West in recent weeks.

He chided the United States for seeking to take credit for a total ban on nuclear tests, for which he claims authorship.

Asked about the war in Chechnya, he said: "You're less critical of the West when it wages a war somewhere killing civilians," apparently referring to NATO airstrikes in Bosnia.

Asked about his health, Yeltsin challenged Chirac to a game of tennis. "We'll see who wins and who's in better health," he quipped.

Upcoming Yeltsin-Chirac Summit Previewed

*LD1910142995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1419 GMT 19 Oct 95*

[By Mikhail Kalmykov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PARIS, October 19 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russo-French summit dialogue will be resumed after a two-year pause when Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Jacques Chirac meet in Paris from October 20-21.

The presidents of Russia and France had in their time agreed to meet annually, but the leaders of the two countries did not meet since March 1993, when President Francois Mitterrand last visited Moscow.

This is explained by several reasons, including the presidential campaign in France, Mitterrand's ill health, and Yeltsin's preoccupation with Russia's domestic problems.

After Chirac, leader of the neo-Gaullist Union in Support of the Republic, became President, fresh attention was given to the problem of resuming the Moscow-Paris dialogue. The current level of interaction hardly suits any of the two sides. Russian and French diplomats believe that its potential is tremendous. ITAR-TASS has learned from Russian and French diplomatic sources that this refers primarily to economic relations: France is today at the bottom of the list of Russia's first ten commercial partners.

Prominent French politicians and political scientists have lately told ITAR-TASS more than once that Russia and France have quite a few common strategic interests both in Europe and in the world as a whole. This offers good opportunities for the establishment of solid, lasting relations of partnership, including within the context of the interaction of Russia, Europe, and the United States — the three peaks of the geopolitical triangle.

This is conducted by good personal, confidential relations between Yeltsin and Chirac, established yet at the time when the latter was not the boss of the Elysee Palace, but only the Mayor of Paris, when he headed the international "Big Europe" non-governmental commission. It is not without reason that a decisive role will be assigned during the upcoming visit to eye-to-eye meetings. The Russian president will be hosted at Rambouillet Palace, Chirac's country residence, where they will spend several hours discussing tete-a-tete many international problems and bilateral relations.

Russian and French high-placed diplomatic sources give evasive answers when asked about the subjects that will be discussed during the negotiations. Both sides stress that many pages of reference notes were, of course, prepared for the presidents, but the subjects will be chosen by them personally. However, it can be said quite confidently that Yeltsin and Chirac will not sidestep such problems as relations between Russia and NATO, European construction, Yugoslavian crisis, nuclear tests, and also joint actions to combat international terrorism.

It is not without reason that these subjects were raised during Yeltsin's interview with French journalists, telecast by the France-2 TV network. The anchorman noted that the Russian President was "in good form" and answered the sharpest questions "most frankly and with humour," making, at the same time, quite a few critical remarks concerning the West, primarily as regards NATO's enlargement.

Yeltsin: Bosnia Peacekeeping Will Not Be NATO Operation

LD1910143695 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Let us all listen to what the Russian president has said about the very acute problem of settling the armed conflict in the Balkans and the involvement in this process of a Russian contingent of peacekeeping forces. This is what the president said:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] When we named a division, the U.S. Congress said no, that is not permissible, for a Russian division to be in the Balkans, to be on the territory of the former Yugoslavia and in Serbia. But it is now a matter of finance. If we send a division there, it will, by UN estimates, cost \$3 billion. This is too expensive for Russia today. So we would like to find a fair option. Perhaps to add a couple of regiments to the battalion that we already have there.

But this is not the main thing. The main thing is who it is subordinate to. The main thing is who is in command? At whose disposal will they be? That is the question. We need to determine who will be in command. We will not

fight under NATO. Even if they say — you operate on the territory of the Muslims — the Serbs are Muslims and Croats, they are also Serbs. [sentence as heard] So we must not allow any distinctions to be drawn here. We must not allow sides to be taken — that we will defend these and not the others. Never. This must be a decision by the UN Security Council, not a decision by NATO. This is not a NATO operation. It is not a NATO operation. It is a peacekeeping operation by the armed forces of a group of states. [end recording]

No Guarantee Russia Will Pay Own Costs in Bosnia
MM1810173095 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Oct 95 p 3

[Report by Maksim Yusin: "What Would a Partnership for Peace in Bosnia Cost Russia?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Addressing the Senate Armed Services Committee Tuesday [17 October], U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry made an unexpected statement which caught Russian officials unawares. According to the head of the U.S. military department, Moscow will itself fully finance its peacemakers' participation in the multinational forces to establish peace in Bosnia.

So far no one in the Kremlin, the Foreign Ministry, or the Defense Ministry has confirmed Russia's willingness to assume such onerous commitments. IZVESTIYA was told by Pavel Grachev's department that no understanding had been reached with the Americans on financing the peacemaking operation and they were at a loss to say where Perry got that information. In Smolenskaya Square they chose not to comment on what the U.S. secretary of defense had said and suggested that we "wait until the meeting between our and the U.S. military ends," meaning the talks that began Wednesday morning with Perry's deputy Walter Slocombe, who is in Moscow.

Be that as it may, in his address to the Senate committee the Pentagon chief was not so much guilty of an untruth; he merely anticipated events somewhat. After all, it is the only way: If Moscow wants to confirm its status as a "great power", and strengthen its positions in the Balkans, why should Americans or West Europeans pay for this?

Perry was putting the picture straight without waiting for the Russian leadership to make a clear and unequivocal statement on the matter. The Americans make no secret of the fact that their 20,000-strong contingent's participation in the Balkan expedition will cost taxpayers a massive sum — between \$1 and \$1.5 billion. But Bill Clinton is deliberately paying it out in the belief

that he will be able to justify the expenditure to the voters.

Now Moscow has to decide what specifically it wants in the Balkans and how much it is prepared to pay for it. The happy days when the United Nations paid for two Russian battalions to stay in former Yugoslavia are past.

Resonant slogans about the need to intensify the military presence in the Balkans become less attractive as soon as the question of funding arises. It is hard to imagine that there will be much enthusiasm in Pavel Grachev's entourage about the proposal to send extra forces to Bosnia (sometimes an entire division is mentioned), if the Defense Ministry has to pay for it. And the idea of introducing into the 1996 budget an extra item of expenditure "on conducting the peacemaking operation in former Yugoslavia" is unlikely to delight Viktor Chernomyrdin.

In view of the current state of the country's economy one can hardly expect Russian regiments and battalions to constitute the backbone of the international peace-making forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina. If so the demands to grant our and the NATO generals equal rights when it comes to directing the operation sound naive to say the least. He who pays the piper calls the tune. Which William Perry did not fail to point out again, when he firmly told senators Tuesday: "NATO will be wholly in command of the operation."

Yeltsin Calls UN 'Necessary' for World Peace

LD1910131195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1226 GMT 19 Oct

[By correspondent Viktor Khrekov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 October (ITAR-TASS) — It will be harder to ensure world peace without the United Nations Organization, "the UN is necessary", [Russian President Boris Yeltsin] declared today at a Kremlin meeting with journalists pegged to the head of the Russian state's forthcoming trip to the 50th-anniversary session of the UN General Assembly. [sentence as received]

"The United Nations has, in the course of 50 years, lived through a checkered history, in which there have been both ups and downs," the Russian president stated. "My assessment of the work of the UN, especially in the recent past, is a positive one. There are, of course, the mistakes and the sluggish pace of work, but it is necessary today. Without it, without it to organize a world security system, it will be even harder to ensure peace in the world. I think that it is necessary."

Yeltsin Repeats Call For Bosnia Conference in Moscow

LD1910112895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1124 GMT 19 Oct 95

[By Viktor Khrekov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW October 19 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin reiterated his calls to hold a peace conference on the former Yugoslavia in Moscow next March and again confirmed that Russia will not act in Bosnia under NATO command.

"We shall not fight under NATO", the president said Thursday addressing reporters in the Kremlin and proposing that peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia should be implemented by "armed forces of separate states not subordinated to NATO".

The president said sending a division to Bosnia would be "too expensive" for Russia which can add two regiments to the already deployed battalion.

Yeltsin denounced NATO air raids on Bosnian Serbs as "barbaric" and said that "we have always stood for peaceful negotiations, against NATO bombings".

The Moscow peace conference, according to him, should involve representatives of the "Big Eight" (Russia and the G-7) and of the warring parties which can adopt "an all-round document" called the "Declaration on a peaceful settlement of the conflict and cessation of military activities".

"It is necessary to put an end to the protracted conflict", Yeltsin said adding that "serious preparations and documents are necessary" for that.

The conference should also consider lifting international sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro, according to the president who stressed that "all issues will be solved at such a level" of the conference.

Bosnia Solution Without Russia 'Inconceivable'

MM1810191395 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Oct 95 p 1

[Article by Grigoriy Karasin, chief of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry Press and Information Department: "On the Threshold of a Peace Conference on Bosnia. What the Members of the Contact Group Said in Moscow"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It appears that despite the very cautious and at times pessimistic predictions, the Moscow session of the Contact Group the day before yesterday [17 October] was an active and constructive

stage in progress toward a peaceful settlement of the crisis in former Yugoslavia. The discussion, chaired by the Russian representative, First Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, was lively and intent on very real results. The central purpose of it was to prepare for an international peace conference on a Yugoslav settlement, which would begin late October or early November.

Give the Contact Group members — Igor Ivanov, Richard Holbrooke, and EU president Karl Bildt, as well as representatives from France, Germany, and Britain — their due: They have done a great deal of work to find points of contact and then to jointly adopt positive, specific decisions and collaborate on a wide range of questions. First of all you had the complex legal, social, economic, humanitarian, and other problems. Certainly the most difficult are the military problems: How to ensure a peaceful settlement after the proper agreement has been concluded. In particular, you have aims, mandate, structure, funding, and subordination in an international force to implement the agreement with the participation of the Russian Federation, NATO, and other countries involved in the settlement. Russia is scrupulous and meticulous in its approach, because what is being created is an important, unique precedent for joint actions by countries of the international community in the postconfrontational period. Both diplomats and the military have a great deal to do to resolve the whole range of questions. Certain specific steps are already being taken in this sphere: Russian Federation Defense Ministry representatives are in Brussels, actively participating in the discussion of all the options.

Absolutely all the Contact Group members now appreciate that a document is needed immediately that will establish a secure peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A cease-fire and the sides' observance of the accords that have been reached remains crucial.

As soon as the session ended three members of the Contact Group (Russia, United States, EU) flew to former Yugoslavia.

There is the separate matter of questions by the members of the media to the group's members concerning Russia's role in the resolution of the Yugoslav crisis. It is no secret that, thanks to someone, there is an idea going round that Russia allegedly is being, or has already been, pushed out of the peace settlement. But this is disputed by the facts. Russia's vigorous activity in the Contact Group ever since it came into being is further evidence of its important role in unraveling the Yugoslav knot. Most important of all — without Russia a long-term solution of the problems in this region is

simply inconceivable and the international community cannot do without it.

Movement toward peace in former Yugoslavia is continuing, and, moreover, has reached a crucial stage.

NATO Control Over Russian Bosnia Force Rejected
LD1810184595 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1723 GMT 18 Oct 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 18 (INTERFAX) — Russia cannot accept NATO control over its military contingent in the multinational force to be placed in Bosnia upon conclusion of a peace agreement, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolay Afanasyevskiy told INTERFAX Wednesday. "This is unacceptable for us," he said.

He described as "very sensitive" the question of the forms of Russia's participation in the multinational force in Bosnia. "It will be one of the central issues during the talks between Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton in the U.S. on October 23," he said.

Afanasyevskiy, who met with an American delegation led by Under-Secretary of State Strobe Talbott in Moscow Wednesday, said he was not sure whether the sides will manage to reach a compromise by October 23.

He explained this as uncertainty over the nature of the contemplated operation in Bosnia. Russia views it as an operation to ensure implementation of the peace agreement. "It's not clear yet what meaning the U.S. and NATO are giving it," said Afanasyevskiy.

"One may get the impression that NATO and the U.S. have a military operation in mind," he added.

Afanasyevskiy preferred not to say — at least for the time being — whether Russia will give up the idea of joining the operation if it finds out that it is based on the military component and on plans to force peace on the Bosnian sides.

"Consultations are underway now," he said. "Much will depend on discussions between the Russian and U.S. military," he added.

Earlier, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said that if the operation in Bosnia is carried out by NATO alone it will fail. The operation will succeed only if NATO, Russia and other countries participate in it, he said.

According to Kozyrev, the Tuesday Contact Group meeting in Moscow "marked a turn from unilateral actions to joint ones," which has been the most important result of the meeting.

A high-ranking Russian Foreign Ministry official told INTERFAX Wednesday that forms of Russian troops' participation in the multinational forces, to be deployed in Bosnia after conflicting parties sign a peace agreement, may be finally defined during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to the United States and his meeting with President Bill Clinton.

According to the official, the issue is being discussed simultaneously in Moscow and in Brussels. "We expect to find a mutually acceptable solution by October 23, when the presidents of Russia and the U.S. are to meet," said the diplomat.

Yelena Agapova, an aide to the Russian defense minister, told INTERFAX that Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and First Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Strobe Talbott met in Moscow Wednesday to discuss the situation in Bosnia and issues relating to the planned multinational operation.

Defense Ministry officials would not comment on the results of the meeting. However, INTERFAX has learned from other sources that the sides failed to reach any significant progress on the issue.

Primakov: NATO's Nukes on Borders Annul Expansion

*LD1810164095 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1538 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 18 (INTERFAX) — If the eastern European countries are concerned about their security, "let NATO give them guarantees for maintenance of security without their joining the bloc," director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service Yevgeniy Primakov said in the State Duma today when answering questions regarding NATO's expansion eastward.

Primakov said the threat that "tactical nuclear weapons will be deployed on its borders" was of greater concern to Russia than that "this bloc's armed forces" might "attack Russia." For this reason Russia can not allow the expansion of NATO eastward, he said.

Primakov said he believed Russia would have to take additional measures for reinforcing its security because Russia had already destroyed its medium-range missiles.

Regarding the prospects for NATO's transformation into a political bloc, Primakov said: "Such tendencies exist but develop slowly."

Moscow Urges 'Maximum Restraint' in E. Slavonia

*LD1810183095 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1723 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 18 (INTERFAX) — Moscow has called for maximum restraint to prevent armed conflict in eastern Slavonia.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday that "Moscow is watching with alarm the growing tensions in eastern Slavonia."

"Reports of a Croat military build-up in that area and openly declared intentions to decide its future from a position of strength cannot but cause serious concern," the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

It pointed to the fact that tensions were growing at a time when the outlook was good for settling the problem of eastern Slavonia by direct talks.

"The use of force may upset the whole peace process. The situation in eastern Slavonia is causing particular concern because any military operation may jeopardize the lives of Russian peace-keepers stationed there," the Foreign Ministry said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry believes that "everybody should display political wisdom and continue searching for a peace settlement to the problem of eastern Slavonia at the negotiating table."

Moscow Warns UN of Croat Offensive Against Krajina

*LD1810133995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1303 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[By Boris Sitnikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] UNITED NATIONS, October 18 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian delegate drew attention of the U.N. Security Council's Tuesday [17 October] consultative meeting to alarming press reports on the concentration of Croat troops and elite units from different districts of Croatia on the "East" sector of the Serbian Krajina.

He noted that the information, furnished by the U.N. Secretariat to the Security Council, also testified to growing tension in the "East" sector, where the Serb side, in reply to the Croatian actions, is evacuating the civilian population, closing schools and shops.

The Russian delegate also pointed out that a repetition of the events that had taken place in other parts of the Serb Krajina would inevitably torpedo the entire political settlement process both in Croatia and on the

entire territory of former Yugoslavia. He stressed that the Security Council should follow the events carefully and react adequately to the situation.

Lobov Receives Yugoslav Ambassador

LD1810141395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1404 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 18 (ITAR-TASS) — Oleg Lobov, Secretary of the Russian Security Council, has received Danilo Markovic, Ambassador of the United Republic of Yugoslavia, at the latter's request, the press service of the Russian Security Council told ITAR-TASS.

The sides discussed problems linked with the peaceful settlement of the Balkans crisis, prospects for strengthening bilateral relations, and other questions of mutual concern.

The meeting was marked by a friendly atmosphere. Both sides believe that it was a new confirmation of growing mutual understanding between the two countries.

Yeltsin, Clinton May Decide Russian Role in Bosnia

LD1810131395 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1146 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 18 (INTERFAX) — Russia's participation in a multi-national force to be deployed in Bosnia after rival factions conclude peace may finally be settled when President Yeltsin visits the United States and meets with President Clinton, a senior Russian Foreign Ministry official said.

The Bosnian issue is the focus of negotiations with the US delegation led by First Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott in Moscow, said the source.

Mr Talbott was received by Russian Foreign Minister on Tuesday evening and met with Kozyrev's deputy Nikolay Afanasiyevsky on Wednesday morning. Later in the day Talbott is to hold talks with the Russian Defense Ministry.

"There have been parallel consultations at NATO's headquarters in Brussels. We hope to achieve a mutually acceptable solution by October 23, when the Russian and US presidents are scheduled to meet," the source said.

Afanasiyevsky said earlier in an interview he was certain that a compromise would be produced shortly.

Kozyrev recalled that Russia was not a member of NATO and could not agree to placing its military contingent in a future peace-keeping force under NATO's command.

Meanwhile, after the Moscow meeting of the contact group on Bosnia on Tuesday another US deputy Secretary of State, Richard Holbrooke, said that the United States would not accept the idea of Russian and NATO generals taking turns as peace force commanders. Subordination and the one-man-command principle must be observed to the full, said Holbrooke.

U.S.-Russia Summit Previewed

MK1910120595 Moscow OBSHCAYA GAZETA
in Russian No. 42, 19-25 Oct p 1

[Commentary by Aleksandr Konovalov: "They Will Argue It Out, But They Do Not Want To Quarrel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The upcoming Russian-American summit is commented on by Aleksandr Konovalov, director of the Russian Academy of Sciences Center for Military Policy and Systems Analysis of the Institute of the United States and Canada.

[Konovalov] Both countries have a need for the presidents' meeting, because relations between Russia and the United States are really on the threshold of a considerable and dangerous worsening. The same events and phenomena are assessed in our countries in different ways; the potential has built up for incomprehension of each other's positions and worries. There is a growing sense in Russia that it is being ousted from big-time politics, that its vital interests are not being considered, that it is being assigned the role of a second-rate power. The most dangerous — both for us and the West — is the point of view gaining ground in Russia that it is listened to, heard, and understood only when it is feared. Therefore, in order to recover its former status, it should once again pose a threat to the outside world.

[Correspondent] What will Yeltsin press for during the talks with the American president?

[Konovalov] Above all, they will discuss Russia's part in the peacekeeping contingent in Bosnia. Russia is prepared to send some of its troops there (Grachev mentioned a division backed by helicopters and firepower). But we have no funds for this action. Neither does the UN. Hence, the only source of financing is NATO. Nor is Russia indifferent as regards the status of its troops in Bosnia — the option of direct subordination of its troops to NATO command is categorically unacceptable to it. Therefore, the talks will center on the questions of the mandate of the joint forces in Bosnia and sources of funding the Russian contingent. Yet another task is to prevent further "de-Serbianization" of Bosnia after the mandate has been defined. Russia has all in all two tools to achieve these goals: The right of veto in the UN Security Council at the time of discussing the mandate of the

peacekeeping contingent in Bosnia, and persuading the West that the growing anti-West sentiments in Russia that are potentially dangerous for it are a much deeper phenomenon than simply election campaign maneuvers by various political forces.

The Russian president will also try to bring home to his American counterpart the idea that the rejection of NATO's eastward expansion is one of the few questions on which there is in Russia a national consensus covering the widest political spectrum, from left-wing radicals to progressive democrats; that this is again no election campaign populism, but a real concern about Russia's national interests.

[Correspondent] What is the American interest in the upcoming talks with Yeltsin?

[Konovalov] First, in its actions in the Balkans, the United States would not like to be projected as a violator of international norms, laws, and its own commitments. Including Russia in the peacemaking process makes the United States' actions more legitimate. It is, for example, like the Russian consent that lent quite a decent status to the anti-Husayn "Desert Storm."

Moreover, the United States is increasingly facing disagreeable sentiments that are growing in the international community from China to Western Europe. The crux of the matter is that American super-leadership is being transformed into license, and is being increasingly perceived as a threat to the entire world. The strengthening of such an "image" is a heavy burden on the Americans, who clearly do not want to provoke general enmity toward themselves and their actions — even from Russia, weakened and vulnerable, which nevertheless has such potential for instability while still possessing nuclear missiles that could cause a lasting headache in the United States.

Of late, American politicians have to their surprise awakened to the fact that the anti-Americanism mounting in Russia is not an element of internal political intrigues, but the beginning of a very dangerous tendency that has to be averted or at least cushioned.

Besides, the United States realizes it is impossible without cooperation with Russia to solve such problems as hammering out a joint mechanism to localize ethnic and political conflicts, and to fight international terrorism and drug trafficking. It is also impossible without Russia to fight the spread of nuclear arms and technologies.

U.S. Bosnia Policy Seen Prompted by Elections

MK1810142795 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 4

[Report by Dmitriy Gornostayev under the "Theory" rubric: "Clinton Needs a Military Triumph. This Year's Cease-Fire in Bosnia May Help Incumbent U.S. President To Stay On at White House"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Any state seeks to ensure its interests in any region it needs at one moment or another. Presently several countries are doing so in the Balkans.

It is difficult to talk about successes achieved by any of them yet, for there is still no peace in Bosnia. But it nearly happened quite recently. At least a U.S. diplomat — Richard Holbrooke, assistant secretary of state for Canada and Europe — wrung from the conflicting parties their consent to a cease-fire and the beginning of a political process that would open with talks in Washington.

U.S. President Bill Clinton was the first to announce that publicly. The U.S. press praised the American diplomat's achievement to the skies.

It seems, however, that both Clinton and his countrymen-journalists were too rash — the latter with conclusions, the former in announcing victory. Perhaps this turn of events has its own logic. Clinton ought to make haste.

The Americans, like the entire international community, need peace in Bosnia. The American president needs it precisely at this juncture and as soon as possible. If not now, then at least within the next two or three months. It is not that Clinton has suddenly felt unbearably sorry for those who are suffering overseas. The thing is that presidential elections will be held in a year's time and the resident of the Oval Office must approach them as a winner — a winner in all battles with his internal and external enemies.

But the issue is not even a diplomatic victory. American voters are for the most part fairly indifferent to their country's successes or failures on the international scene. They start taking interest in them only when foreign policy pursued by the state begins to have a direct impact on them. The presidents under whose rule wars led by the United States yielded mostly coffins wrapped in the Stars and Stripes usually did not stay at the White House for more than one term: Lyndon Johnson, who started the Vietnam war, could not give the Democrats a chance to win in 1968; the Gulf war was also part of George Bush's undoing. All these presidents attempted to turn wars into political trumps to

be played domestically, but failed. This game succeeds only when the soldier returns home safe and sound, with combat decorations to boot. Then in his eyes the president takes on a "fatherly" image and the rating of the country's leader increases. Achieving this would be very difficult, but presently this has become possible for the U.S. president — largely thanks to the absence of a standoff between the two systems.

A multi-thousand-strong contingent of U.S. servicemen is expected to be sent to the conflict area. Its objective is not to fight, but to end up victors. The scheme of sending troops has been effectively tested, while U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry even announced the contingent's estimated strength — up to 25,000. And suddenly — what joy! — a truce is reached in Bosnia and the Serbs sit down at the negotiating table with the Muslims.

But there is no stopping the military machine. The GIs will stay in Bosnia as the core of multinational peacekeeping forces, which will subsequently — at least in the United States — come to be called "allied," and then it will be not be too gross an exaggeration to say that "the U.S. Army brought peace to Bosnia." The valiant guys return home. First, Washington's authority will receive a boost in the eyes of the international community, which still has an impact — even if not the crucial one — on the popularity of the country's number one leader. Second, the incumbent president broadens his support base by attracting the heroes of a Bosnian campaign that effectively never took place; they also have relatives and friends, who are naturally proud of the brave guy and American might, that is, the president. Such a situation already came about when the U.S. Armed Forces brought order to Haiti without a single shot. But this happened more than a year ago and has effectively been forgotten by Americans. So currently Clinton needs fresh heroes, living ones at that. If U.S. troops find themselves on territory where combat operations are under way, however, losses will be unavoidable. Hence, Clinton will not be able to avoid a drop in his popularity, which he already experienced after the failure of the U.S. military peacekeeping mission in Somalia. After a few dozen Yankees were killed in Mogadishu, Clinton's rating fell abruptly according to public opinion polls conducted at the time.

After that incident, both the Pentagon and the White House realized that ground forces should operate only on the territory where there are sufficiently high guarantees of their security.

Presently Washington has been given such a chance. But it has to make haste so as to have time to seize it. The

triumph should coincide with the period in the election campaign when most voters make up their minds for whom to vote. This will happen approximately between the end of summer and the beginning of fall 1996. Before that one has to have time to agree on the forms of a military presence in Bosnia, first of all with Russia, which has recently become fairly unyielding, to deploy the units on Bosnian territory, to win the local population's sympathies, to disarm the conflicting parties, to bring order to a dozen population centers, to announce one's victory, and to meet the victors at home with much fanfare and exultation.

At the end of last week, when the truce was broken, Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador to Moscow, noted in response to your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA observer's question that using air strikes once again would be inadvisable at a time when the replacement of UN blue helmets by U.S. ground troops is being contemplated. Indeed, instead of bombing the Serbs — bombing others would not be good manners — and irritating those who are in Washington's pocket, as it were, one would be better off talking to the Muslims and convincing those responsible for breaching the truce to cease combat operations. In a word, to pacify the shooters in Bosnia as soon as possible — so as to increase Clinton's chances in the presidential campaign.

Soskovets, Colombian President Discuss Trade Ties
LD1910085895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 0410 GMT 19 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Oleg Velichko and Andrey Golubov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cartagena (Colombia), 19 Oct — Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, who has been attending the XIth meeting of the Non-aligned Movement, met Colombian President Ernesto Samper on Wednesday [18 October].

During the meeting the sides said that the trade turnover between the two states needed to be increased. In 1994 it only amounted to \$80.5 million. The building of an oil pipeline from Colombia to Latin America with the participation of Russian firms and the launching of a Colombian communications satellite using Russian carriers are mentioned as promising projects for bilateral cooperation.

Particular attention was paid to combating drug trafficking. In this connection, the Russian first deputy prime minister informed Samper that the Russian special services in St. Petersburg recently managed to seize a large consignment of drugs from Colombia. Once again the sides confirmed their willingness to cooperate closely in this sphere.

Soskovets conveyed a message to the Colombian leader from the Russian president, in which willingness is expressed to develop mutually advantageous ties with this Latin American country.

On the same day, Russia's first deputy prime minister and Colombia's minister of foreign trade signed an agreement on the development of bilateral trade over a period of three years. Among other things, the document envisages an increase in deliveries of Russian passenger, freight, and agricultural mechanical engineering products, fertilizers, communications technology, as well as an increase in Russian imports of Colombian coffee, bananas, flowers, and textile goods.

Meets Malaysian Premier, Egyptian Minister

LD19101095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 0419 GMT 19 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Oleg Velichko and Andrey Golubov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cartagena (Colombia), 19 Oct — "Malaysia is trying to strengthen cooperation with Russia in science and technology," Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed said on Wednesday at a meeting with Oleg Soskovets, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister. Russia, he added, has a developed industry and we wish to possess "know-how."

In the opinion of the Malaysian prime minister, Southeast Asia may become "a good market for the purchase of small aircraft for private use and hovercraft." "Russia needs to be more energetic in pushing its own products forward on to the market and also to demonstrate its own achievements more widely on the international markets," he stressed.

In his turn, Oleg Soskovets expressed Russia's commitment to extending its presence on the markets of Southeast Asia and if necessary to holding an exhibition in the region in the near future. In addition to this, he confirmed that next month Russia will send proposals to all interested countries in the region on cooperation in the military and technical sphere.

On the same day Oleg Soskovets met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. During the conversation, the first deputy prime minister said that Russia is prepared "to maintain close ties with the Arab world." "Russia is currently returning to economic partnership with old friends," he stressed.

Visit May Bring Russian Subs Back to Cuba

MK1910062595 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Igor Korotchenko: "Cuba Is Attracting the Russian Military. Submarines May Arrive at the Island Following Soskovets"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The impending military and political isolation of Russia, looming through the announced decision on NATO's expansion eastward, is urging the Kremlin to seek possible ways of neutralizing potential threats. From this perspective, First Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets' visit to Cuba, which has already concluded, opens, quite logically, a new stage in military and military-technological cooperation between Moscow and Havana.

In Cuba, the Russian Federation currently has the largest center in the Western Hemisphere for electronic intelligence, which is at the disposal of the Sixth Directorate of the GRU [Main Intelligence Directorate]. The center accounts for over 80 percent of all incoming information on the United States. There, in Lurdes, are also located FAPSI [Federal Government Communications and Information Agency] radio monitoring posts, which intercept and decipher the government-channel messages of the U.S. National Security Agency, as well as a Foreign Intelligence Service Communications Center providing informational coverage for the Russian intelligence agent network in North and South America.

The importance of the electronic intelligence complex in Cuba for the national security interests of the Russian Federation has repeatedly been emphasized by Russia's leadership, even at times when relations with Fidel Castro soured a great deal. Last year, the chief of the General Staff, Army General Mikhail Kolesnikov, considered it necessary to meet in person with his [Fidel Castro's] brother Raul to confirm the Center's legal status and to resolve the issue of payments to lease it.

No less interest in Cuba is being expressed by the Russian Main Naval Staff. Before 1990, Soviet diesel-powered submarines had their temporary basing point at the Cienfuegos naval base, from where they later had to withdraw by Gorbachev's order. Circumstances are taking a favorable turn today for the reinstatement of a Russian naval presence near the Atlantic Coast of the United States. In the event appropriate agreements are reached, the Russian Federation could send to Cuba a squadron of "Kilo" class submarines (capable, in accordance with the NATO classification, of monitoring the operations of major American naval bases). The option most desirable for the Russian Navy would be to have Havana's permission to deploy Russian missile-

carrying and strike-force nuclear-powered submarines in Cienfuegos. Given the dynamics of the new Russian-Cuban rapprochement and with anti-Western sentiments now more popular in the Kremlin, the situation turns out to be quite feasible.

Afghan Government Reportedly Admits Failed Offensive

*LD1910120495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1122 GMT 19 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEHRAN, October 19 (ITAR-TASS) — Afghan government troops have today admitted that their offensive against armed detachments of the "Taleban" Islamic Opposition Movement south of Kabul had failed.

"Reports received here," a government spokesman noted, "indicate that troops loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani were unable to recapture the earlier lost positions south of Kabul."

It is reported that the dominating heights, located south of the Afghan capital, are still in the hands of the Talibs, who have pledged to take Kabul by storm. The government has also admitted that the enemies of President Rabbani from the Afghan Shi'ite Movement had taken Bamian, a city in Central Afghanistan.

It is being noted that the situation in Kabul is calm, there are crowds of people in the streets, and many stalls and shops are trading as usual.

The Rabbani government has lost quite a chunk of territory during the past two weeks, but is still firmly in control of Kabul.

Kozyrev Favors Early Talks by Syria, Lebanon

*LD1810142695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1416 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[By Aleksandr Zhudro]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 18 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev supports the early resumption of the negotiating process on the Syrian and Lebanese sections of the Middle East settlement. He stated it at a meeting with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan, who came to Moscow for holding consultations within the framework of the second session of the Russian-Israeli working committee for the Middle East.

According to a press release, received by ITAR-TASS from the Russian Foreign Ministry, participants in the talks pointed to the crucial importance of a new breakthrough in the process of attaining the Arab-Israeli settlement, specifically, the recent signing of the

provisional agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the redeployment of forces and the expansion of Palestine autonomy. It was stressed at the talks that "the consistent fulfilment of this document will create favourable conditions for a further advance towards attaining a comprehensive settlement in the region and, in the first place, for the beginning of a constructive and effective dialogue on a final status of the Palestine territories."

Kozyrev spoke in favour of "the quest for compromise solutions and the early resumption of the negotiating process on the Syrian and Lebanese sections of the settlement," and said that Russia intended to "continue active co-sponsor promotion of mutually acceptable Arab-Israeli agreements."

According to the press release, the sides reiterated their common interest in a further development of cooperation and concerted actions in various spheres.

Moscow Agrees To Swap CIS Debt for Property

*LD1810180295 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1538 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 18 (INTERFAX) — The Russian government commission for payment and settlement, meeting in Moscow Wednesday, endorsed an idea to pay off debts owed to Russia by CIS states with property in those countries.

The ministry for CIS cooperation making the proposal put the combined CIS debt to Russia at about \$9 billion, most of it in technical credits allocated by the Central Bank of Russia to cover CIS trade deficit in 1992-1993.

Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays, who chaired the meeting, said it would be hard to recover the debt in the near term and in foreign exchange, but Moscow would use all available leverage to do so. Russia may use its influence in the International Monetary Fund by setting a condition that CIS states must honor their obligations to Russia before obtaining IMF stabilization credits.

Chubays believes that a mechanism must be produced to help transform the CIS debt into conveyance of CIS assets to Russia, including their industrial facilities.

Details of 1983 USSR-PRC Submarine Crash Revealed

OW1910023795 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 17 Oct 95 p 1

[By reporter A. Portov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vladivostok, 16 Oct — Testimony by high-ranking Russian Pacific Fleet officers and

former Soviet Union and Russian Navy's records on nuclear submarine collisions obtained as of 16 October by TOKYO SHIMBUN have revealed that two nuclear submarines, respectively belonging to the former Soviet Navy and the Chinese Navy, collided off the coast of Vladivostok in the Russian Far East in 1983, resulting in the sinking of the Chinese submarine, together with the loss of the latter's entire crew of around 70. The accident had been kept in complete secrecy as confidential military information between the two countries. Six years after the accident, scientists at the former Soviet Academy of Sciences detected extremely high levels of radiation where the Chinese submarine sank. It is possible that Japanese territorial waters around the area may be contaminated with radiation.

Russian records of nuclear submarine collisions have also revealed for the first time that between 1968 to 1993, there were 35 reported cases of collisions involving former Soviet and Russian nuclear submarines. Among them, the one that has drawn particular attention is a collision between a former Soviet nuclear submarine and a Chinese nuclear submarine. The two submarines involved in the incident were the "K-324" (with Viktor Ushakov as commander), a Victor-III class nuclear-powered attack submarine belonging to the former Soviet Pacific Fleet, and a Han-class nuclear-powered attack submarine belonging to the Chinese Navy.

Putting together relevant documents and testimony by several high-ranking officers of the Russian Pacific Fleet who are involved with nuclear submarines, it is surmised that in June 1983, the Russian submarine, which was operating submerged in Russian territorial waters in the 99th sea area near Putyatín Island about 100 km southeast off Vladivostok, collided against the tail end of an unidentified submarine at a depth of around 16 meters.

After the collision, the Russian submarine immediately surfaced in an emergency maneuver and returned to port without further trouble. At the fleet command, investigators found parts of the other submarine's screws and rudder clinging to the Russian submarine's damaged front end. As a result, it was determined that the other submarine could become immobilized and eventually

sink. The Russian fleet command ordered that the other submarine be identified, and it was confirmed from the characteristics of the screw and the rudder that the other submarine was a Chinese Han-class attack submarine.

However, investigation conducted by the Russian fleet command later on revealed that immediately after the collision, the Chinese submarine sank to the bottom of the ocean at a depth of around 800-1,000 meters near Askold Island, which is about 100 km southeast of Vladivostok.

Six years later in 1989, the Pacific Fleet commissioned the Oceanography Institute under the Far Eastern branch of the Soviet Academy of Sciences to investigate the ocean floor around Vladivostok. This operation had nothing to do with the investigation of the submarine collision incident but researchers reportedly detected extremely high radiation levels measuring 1,000 roentgen per hour within a 5-meter radius from the point on the ocean floor where the Chinese nuclear submarine rested.

At the time of the collision, which was prior to the time Perestroika swept the former Soviet Union, Chinese and Russian relations had cooled down, and the Pacific Fleet believed that the Chinese nuclear submarine, which later sank, was conducting intelligence activities in Soviet territorial waters.

A high-ranking officer (rear admiral) of the fleet command has said: "The site of the collision was in an area of water only 16.2 km away from the nuclear submarine base in Pavlovsk, and the submarine was suspected of conducting surveillance of the Soviet naval base."

However, the fleet command, which feared that the incident would become a diplomatic issue, merely reported that it was a minor incident and never sent any information indicating the other submarine as a Chinese vessel.

Moreover, the Pacific Fleet Command, according to information it obtained from Soviet intelligence sources at the time, reported that the Chinese Navy tried to conceal the truth about the sinking of its submarine by building a life-size plywood replica of the submarine to make it appear as if it were still in service.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Proposes European Security System

LD1910111895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1048 GMT 19 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Khrekov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Oct (ITAR-TASS)— Russia cannot agree to the deployment of NATO nuclear weapons in Eastern Europe, Russian President Boris Yeltsin declared today as he spoke at a meeting with journalists in the Kremlin. At the same time, the head of state voiced the hope that it will prove possible to settle the problem during his upcoming meeting with the U.S. President. "Bill Clinton and I will find ways of solving the issue to reach an agreement. He wants that, and I want that," Boris Yeltsin said.

The Russian president announced that Moscow intends to propose a new European security system, providing, in particular, for the creation of a so-called European Security Council [Sovet yevropeyskoy bezopasnosti]. It would be tasked with coordinating the actions of the European countries in respect of security. This system, according to the Russian head of state, would rule out the eastward expansion of NATO, since that option for the development of events would lead to the creation of two blocs and to confrontation. "The sacrifice of partnership is out of the question," Boris Yeltsin pointed out.

Yeltsin Voices Dissatisfaction With Foreign Ministry

LD1910115795 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1100 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Now about the news conference Boris Yeltsin gave on the eve of his departure for New York for the jubilee 50th session of the UN General Assembly.

Boris Yeltsin regards the implementation of economic reforms as his main achievement and the events in Chechnya as a major disappointment. Answering a question from the Russia Television correspondent on the work of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Boris Yeltsin said in particular:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] There is still dissatisfaction. For the time being I do not see any improvements in its work, and so far there is no specific personnel decision. First, a worthy candidate should be selected. I have been thinking, let's say, about a candidate for the post of prosecutor general for about three months, and in the end, I believe, the candidate is a very good one, a very good one. On Tuesday [Prime Minister] Chernomyrdin

will present him at the Federation Council. I have a feeling in my bones that he will be accepted.

In the government, the Foreign Ministry coordinates the entire international policy and all issues connected with it. The provision governing the Foreign Ministry says that it is the foreign minister who is responsible for this. But he cannot deal with many of the ministers, and this is the problem. [end recording]

Yeltsin Nominates Skuratov for General Prosecutor

MK1810134695 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Andrey Streletskiy: "Yeltsin Achieves No Surprise This Time. 'A Strong Professional and Good Person' Put Forward To Take the Position of General Prosecutor"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The news that Russian President Boris Yeltsin forwarded to the Federation Council a recommendation for the appointment of Yuriy Skuratov to the position of general prosecutor went down well with a vast majority of workers in the General Prosecutor's Office. This is at least what an informed source in the General Prosecutor's Office, who did not want to be named, claims. In his words, there were at least 20 names on the list of candidates for the position of general prosecutor. It featured such well-known personalities as aides to the Russian president Yuriy Baturin and Mikhail Krasnov, Justice Minister Valentin Kovalev, Moscow's former prosecutor Gennadiy Ponomarev, ad interim general prosecutor Oleg Gaydanov, well-known lawyers Aleksandr Yakovlev and Valeriy Savitskiy, as well as almost all oblast prosecutors and even one oblast administration head. [passage omitted]

Mr. Skuratov's colleagues point out the positive qualities of the new candidate for the long-suffering position: reserve, the ability to listen to others' opinions, and politeness. The staffers at the institute of which Yuriy Skuratov is in charge sincerely regret his possible early departure and admit they are losing a good boss. [passage omitted]

As for Oleg Gaydanov, who since 8 October has temporarily performed the duties of general prosecutor, there is still no information on his professional future. He may quit the General Prosecutor's Office and go back to what he used to do: investigation.

Yeltsin Edict Authorizes Election of Regional Heads

MM1910105495 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 19 Oct 95 p 1

[Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 1052 "On Elections of Heads of Orenburg, Tambov, and Tomsk

Oblast Administrations," signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin in the Kremlin, Moscow, on 16 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with appeals from administration heads, legislative organs, and the Russian Federation president's official representatives in Orenburg, Tambov, and Tomsk Oblasts regarding the holding of elections of the administration heads, taking cognizance of the existence of the requisite legal base for the holding of elections, and guided by Article 77 Part 1 and Article 80 Part 2 of the Russian Federation Constitution I decree that:

1. Elections of the heads of the administrations of Orenburg, Tambov, and Tomsk Oblasts are hereby authorized.
2. State organs in Orenburg, Tambov, and Tomsk Oblasts are to ensure the implementation of the organizational and technical measures involved in the preparation and holding of the elections of the administration heads in accordance with the timeframes prescribed by federal legislation and the legislation of Russian Federation components.
3. This edict comes into force on the day it is published.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
[Dated] The Kremlin, Moscow, 16 October 1995
No. 1052

Chernomyrdin Addresses Conference of Pensioners, Veterans

*MM1810130195 Moscow TRUD in Russian
18 Oct 95 p 2*

[Report by Vladimir Naumov: "Premier Meets Pensioners"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "All the government's actions must be thoroughly imbued with the social factor," Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin stated Saturday [14 October] when addressing a conference of regional branches of the Union of Pensioners of Russia in Moscow. [passage omitted]

V. Chernomyrdin stressed in his address to the conference that he was there not in his capacity as head of the "Russia Is Our Home" electoral bloc but as a premier who wants to see and get to know pensioners' problems better. Gauging the mood of the hall, the premier paid tribute to the merits of the USSR and the healthy section of the country's former leaders, on the one hand, and recalled, on the other hand, that 70 percent of Russia's industry was geared up "for war." Now that the "enemy image" has disappeared, it no longer makes sense to focus vast resources in the defense sphere and industry

must be switched to peaceful output. However, there is no possibility of transferring vast resources into conversion: This industry must not only diversify but must also produce competitive new output. "We are taking our own Russian path," V. Chernomyrdin stressed, and he said that no one in the world had a model of a market economy appropriate for Russia to imitate.

At the same time he complained of the legislative vacuum: Only 50 percent of the normative and legislative base that the reforms require is in place today and over 40 draft laws prepared by the government are lying dormant in the State Duma.

But, he assured his audience, there is a general improvement in evidence and there has been stabilization since May. The rate of price rises is slowing down. The premier let it be known that he realizes that this is not the kind of audience to talk to about the long-term future. But trying to improve the social position of the masses by switching on the printing presses is no solution — it merely prolongs the agony. He stressed that it would be irresponsible to promise the impossible, but the government will do everything in its power for pensioners.

A member of the audience asked what the government was doing when crooked firms were fleecing the people, to which the prime minister responded:

"I would not accept all the blame personally, but I cannot absolve myself of the responsibility for the fact that veterans and pensioners were embroiled in the financial games of companies which collapse like a house of cards"....

He listed the areas where the government is seeking opportunities to improve the position of private investors. First, a compensation fund is being set up to provide assistance to victims. Second, the state will also help private companies working with the population's funds (on conditions that they recognize their responsibility to investors and demonstrate this by their actions). Third, administrative mechanisms are being activated to protect investors who have been duped: The law enforcement agencies are stepping up their exactingness toward dishonest companies, and court decisions in favor of investors will be backed up by state support.

The premier promised to sign a decree in the near future prohibiting increases in gas and electricity charges until the end of the year....

Viktor Chernomyrdin let slip as though in passing that it was only on arriving at the conference that he found out that there are actually two pensioners' organizations in Russia: the Union of Veterans and the Union of Pensioners. And he criticized Trunov (in his absence) and Glazov (to his face) for the fact that the leaders

cannot agree between themselves.... Be that as it may, the Union of Pensioners, which is currently having to find accommodation wherever it can, has been promised help in the form of financial support and premises, including at regional level. "This union exists, this organization exists," the prime minister said, as though giving his blessing to the new public formation. Thus it may be said that the organization has acquired civic status and a roof over its head exactly a year to the day since its registration at the Russian Federation Justice Ministry. And pensioners have been given tangible support in their attempt not only to consolidate their own social position, but also to take their rightful place in the country's political life.

Political Observer Assesses Chernomyrdin's Duma Address

MM1710142295 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN
in Russian 17 Oct 95 p 1

[Commentary by political observer Aleksandr Bykovskiy under the "View of Events: Tuesday Through Tuesday" rubric: "Will Russians Agree With the Premier?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last Friday [13 October] Prime Minister V. Chernomyrdin — who is also leader of the "Russia Is Our Home" electoral association — acquainted State Duma deputies in fairly eloquent terms with the, in his opinion, definite positive changes in the government's activity. Thus, in Viktor Stepanovich's words, the scale of the reduction in production this year is smaller than last year. GDP decreased in the first nine months of this year by only 3 percent against the same period in 1994. Some sectors are even seeing a growth in production. This applies above all to enterprises which are geared to exports. From this evidence the speaker drew the conclusion that the Russian economy has stood its ground and is begin to adapt to market conditions.

True, the topic of the standard of living enjoyed by Russians was rather muted in the premier's speech. Data recently published by the Russian State Committee for Statistics enables us to fill this gap. It turns out that the real monetary income of the population has fallen by 18 percent since last September. This fall also led to a reduction in domestic commodity turnover, which has decreased by 10 percent by comparison with September 1994.

Still more depressing figures are cited by S. Glazyev, chairman of the State Duma State Committee for Economic Policy. According to his estimates, prices almost doubled in the first eight months of this year. Thus prices of charged services increased by a factor of 2.6, charges for housing and utilities by a factor of 3.8,

and gas prices by a factor of 6.4. As a result 45 million people have an income below the subsistence minimum. In the most difficult position are the many peasants who have not received their wages for months.

The problem of ensuring adequate provision of food has assumed especially alarming proportions. Whereas only five years ago Russia occupied sixth or seventh place in the world in terms of food provision, nowadays it has slipped to 40th place. We are "vying" with countries such as Bangladesh and Ethiopia. We have reached the stage where we are unable to feed our own Army properly.

Overall, the premier's speech in the Duma brought him no political dividends. And it was no accident that Chernomyrdin proposed that deputies conclude a sort of nonaggression pact or peaceful coexistence agreement in the run-up to December's elections. Of course, this proposal was more like a joke by which the government chairman was trying to establish some sort of rapport with the deputies. But, like any joke, the premier's suggestion carried a grain of truth.

To wit: Viktor Stepanovich is evincing a noticeable desire not to let government hearings in the Duma get to the point of the submission of a vote of no-confidence in the Cabinet of Ministers. After all, it is no secret that if the dismissal of Chernomyrdin's government is accepted, this could result in a complete rout for his "Home" in the elections. Especially in view of the fact that, to judge from press reports, the standing of those who are suggesting to the head of state that — in the event of yet another parliamentary crisis — he offer the post of prime minister to Yu. Skokov, leader of the "Congress of Russian Communities" electoral association, is increasing within the president's circle.

It is entirely beyond doubt that these circumstances in many ways explain the marked changes in Chernomyrdin's stance on agrarian issues. In his speech he effectively intimated that he will no longer insist on holding the notorious referendum on the private ownership of land [a cartoon (by Vladimira Lepkhanova) accompanying this article shows Sergey Shakhrai exclaiming: "Eureka!!! We'll sneak the buying and selling of land through a referendum: You can count the number of peasants on the fingers of one hand!"]. Obviously, the premier, aware of the great esteem in which the Agrarian Party of Russia is held, has decided, so to speak, not to ruffle feathers and to avoid creating conflict in his relations with one of the leading parties.

All the same, Chernomyrdin's position on agrarian questions was by no means influenced decisively by the political stratagems of the election campaign. As M. Lapshin, chairman of the Agrarian Party of Russia,

rightly remarked in conversation with the author of these lines, wide-ranging protests by peasants against the irresponsible plans for land speculation have, all the signs suggest, had a sobering effect on the head of the government.

It is curious that in his largely restrained speech the premier could not, however, resist taking a dig at the Agrarians: What have you yourselves done for the success of the reforms? he asked. He obviously had in mind the fact that this year the gross grain harvest will constitute, according to the estimates of many specialists, not more than 65 million tonnes, whereas only five years ago 125 million tonnes of grain were gathered in Russia.

However, if you recall the impoverished condition of the agro-industrial complex, like it or not, you begin to have a different thought — how did peasants manage to produce even this meager harvest this year? Judge for yourself. Whereas European countries add to the soil an average of 300 kg of mineral fertilizers per hectare, in our country last year only 16 kg were added per hectare. And this year, according to the estimates of V. Zvolinskiy, chairman of the Federation Council Committee for Agrarian Policy, only approximately 3 kg of mineral fertilizers were added to every hectare.

A similar picture can be seen with regard to state agricultural subsidies. In 1994 the total transfer of funds earmarked for the support of the agrarian sector in Japan, for example, constituted \$89 billion and in the United States \$94 billion. And even countries like Finland, Sweden, and Austria plowed \$3.9 billion, \$5.8 billion, and \$4.5 billion respectively into their agricultural sectors. This enables many countries to reliably safeguard their agricultural producers against imports. For instance, in Finland state protectionism enables internal grain prices to be kept at the level of 400 percent (!) of world prices.

The Russian peasant today can only dream of such investments. And I am sure that on 17 December he will assess "on its merits" the activity of those political forces and rulers who have brought Russia's agriculture, and its industry as well, to the end of their tether.

Kozyrev Interviewed on Chechnya, Balkans, Foreign Policy

*LD1810152595 Moscow MTK Television in Russian
1930 GMT 17 Oct 95*

[Studio interview with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by correspondent Boris Notkin — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Notkin] Good evening, dear viewers. At present absolutely anyone who feels like

it is criticizing our foreign policy. I am a bit surprised because over the seven years that I have sat in this chair I have gotten to talk to almost all our politicians, and I have to say that the clearest, most outstanding of all these political figures has been the man I have in the studio, Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev.

In the studio with us today, Andrey Vladimirovich, how do you feel, being aware that the criticism being made of you does not come solely from purely political motives. I mean, the president is poor, the government is poor, there cannot be anything good there. If there is anything in these premises, one should act. What is your feeling on this?

[Kozyrev] Good evening. First of all, I feel I am in the presence of the best, clearest, and most outstanding presenter. That is the first thing. Second, indeed the most important and probably the main reason is our domestic dissatisfaction and a certain lack of stability. This comes simply from the period of transition of establishing the new state. We were living in one state, which had one foreign policy. This may have appeared and may now appear much better than it actually was to some people, although in general we were in fact in isolation. To some it might have been completely bad. We would like something ideal, something good. In short, it seems to me that the most important thing is that we are experiencing the difficult search for self-knowledge as a state, knowledge of ourselves within the world around us. We quite probably deserve to be reproached on many issues.

[Notkin] Which ones? May I quote IZVESTIYA on this? Today's edition of IZVESTIYA, on our people again bombing villages in Chechnya and the army and the special services again denying responsibility. [says]: What kind of country is this in which villages can be bombed and the authorities do not know what kind of aircraft there were or who is in charge of them or who is dropping bombs on their own citizens?

You are that country's foreign minister. You have talked about the state structure, in which the authorities work from morning to night. You are a minister in this country. In the unpleasant situation we are talking about, how can you say you are saving or building this country? I'm afraid that is my view.

[Kozyrev] Yes. I am, of course, working so that the overall aim of our foreign policy amounts to insuring that all the difficult costs of the transition period do not create an hysterical foreign policy, does not throw us into new confrontation with the world around us, so that we can take the place we deserve in the world. Of course, against the background of these kinds of reports in our own press...

[Notkin interrupts] In IZVESTIYA...

[Kozyrev continues] ...which criticize us severely and present a harsh picture of Russia as some kind of chaotic, almost barbaric, country, where bombings happen and nobody even knows who is doing the bombing, probably no one...

[Notkin interrupts] Is it IZVESTIYA presenting it like that, or is it really like that, people dropping bombs and everyone saying they don't know who is doing it? Our own aircraft are dropping bombs, our own villages are being bombed, yet nobody knows who is doing the bombing? Is it the Italians flying in?

[Kozyrev] Well, I hope not because then it would be my business, and this is clearly a domestic matter, it is a domestic matter. People might remember that I said on a program before that I wake up every morning and thank God that he did not make me interior minister, but foreign minister. Then I can comment on these reports just as you can. These are press reports. Does this strengthen our international position? Of course not. Even the very fact that these reports appear does nothing to strengthen our international position.

In such conditions some of us would want our foreign policy to be completely separate from this background, want us to have a place in the world which has no link at all with the situation at home. But that is impossible. Some people might want to catch up and overtake the United States in literally all things, and for example accusations are hurled at us, saying: Look, Russia is a cosponsor of the Middle East process, but the United States is the one staging the signing ceremony — why not Moscow? I can reply to that like this: Every year the United States puts into the furnace of the Middle East process — as well as its political participation — approximately \$5 billion. I would not even venture to recommend that we should spend \$5 billion on the Middle East right now — if I did that the people of Moscow would probably have a less kindly attitude to me on the streets and my voters in Murmansk would most likely vote against me. You understand the point: We cannot allow ourselves to spend the same kind of money on our foreign policy as the United States does.

[Notkin] No, of course. But the United States has prestige and in the United States it does not happen that they conduct foreign policy in such a way that the defense minister pursues one foreign policy, the minister of the gas industry another, the prime minister or whatever he is called over there a third, while the secretary of state follows a seventeenth policy. With the prestige we have, can we insist on people listening to us? Can you explain what people want from you?

How can people pay heed to you when these wonders are happening in the country?

[Kozyrev] It is hard for me to say what people want of me. They probably want what they want of all of us — they want us to be ideal, to be what they dream of, what they would wish. I, too, would like to have \$5 billion in my pocket, to have even a couple of billion now for Bosnia, where the process is not only determined to a considerable extent by the fact that we are taking part in the talks process, but also by the fact that the Americans and the West are saying: Put up for now with our new air strikes and then we will give you big money to rebuild your economy. That is one of reasons that the voice of Moscow has sometimes been louder against the air strikes than that of the Serbs themselves because they are already thinking about receiving this economic and financial aid.

So, of course I, too, would like us to have this kind of leverage, but I think it a great achievement that, despite all the difficulties you speak of, we are nonetheless alongside the United States as the political cosponsors of the Middle East process, just the two countries, Russia and the United States.

[Notkin] That is remarkable. Now...

[Kozyrev interrupts] In Bosnia we are members of the Contact Group and there was a meeting of the Contact Group today here in Moscow. I believe that we are striving to do what can be done here in Moscow.

[Notkin] Andrey Vladimirovich, now explain one thing: So far we have been talking only about subjective things. Objectively, what are the aims of Russia's foreign policy, say, in the Balkans? I am interested in this, but I do not understand. Your department has not explained to us what Russia's aims there are, apart from tales about us having some kind of strategic ally there — which in 1917 was not, and has never been, our ally, from Rankovic to all the antisoviet emigres who were there in Belgrade, reminiscent of the 19th century. Nothing is said about anything other than the ideology that we have Orthodox brothers there. What are Russia's interests in the Balkans? Can you outline this? Then we will be able to understand what is being achieved and what is not.

[Kozyrev] Well, I have never said, and I do not think you will find any document saying that we have a strategic ally there or that, say, we should be guided by the interests of Orthodox unity or Orthodox sympathies alone, although we must not discount that altogether. Yes, a considerable proportion of our population inclines toward Orthodoxy or practices the Orthodox religion and the Serbian population also has a considerable number

practicing that religion and I think that this does bring our peoples closer. However, of course we cannot be guided by religious considerations. On the contrary, we are categorically against bringing in religious factors, otherwise we will have a crusade there. Muslims will fight for the Muslim cause and we would have a world war. We would be fighting for the Orthodox and the Croats would obviously fight for...

[Notkin interrupts] The Catholics.

[Kozyrev continues] ...the pope. Yes, for Rome, the Catholic world. That is an utterly monstrous scenario, a totally barbaric scenario. I have to say in all honor that our Orthodox church, the patriarch and, incidentally, the leaders of all the churches in Yugoslavia itself are unequivocally and officially opposed to bringing the religious factor in to play, since this would be a fatal factor. Each is telling its side — our patriarch, too — saying to the Orthodox people: Please do not fight an Orthodox war, please remember that we have one God, that we are all people and must not kill each other. No killing!

The Church has an entirely negative attitude to this demagoguery. This is the demagoguery of people who not only fail to understand Russia's national interests but also fail to understand the church, who are now prepared to create a pretext, shall we say, to distort the content of all this, because they understand nothing. These are people who held [Communist] party cards yesterday and now want the Church to baptize them in exactly the same way. For these people the essence of the process is one and the same. They speculated in Communist ideas and now they are speculating in the Orthodox ideas, doing colossal harm. That is as far as the Orthodox church is concerned.

As for our interests, all in all they are fairly simple. I have outlined them more than once and I can repeat a summary for you. Yes, we have ties with the former Slavic peoples of former Yugoslavia, all of them. That means the Serbs, they are all Slavic people — and even the Muslims. These are the same Slavs. It was only in the period of Turkic colonialism, that is, when they were under the Turkish empire, that they turned to the Muslim faith and they are now called Muslims. But in fact they are just the same as the Serbs and some of the Croats — all Slavs. However, of course, our Slavs are united by a common culture and history, by language. It is perfectly normal and natural. It does not mean that, say, the French, with whom we have ties, have any less of an interest. They are concerned, too. However, there are factors peculiar to everyone's ties with other peoples and I do not think we should renounce that.

For example, we are linked with the CIS countries by our history, our past, the Russian language, and a great deal else. We have family ties.

[Notkin] Come to the point. What about the Balkans? There has been a lack of consistency there in the Russian position. What are the positions? They don't say.

[Kozyrev] Yes, that is right. Because, as a rule, the advocates of the demagoguery of Orthodox solidarity would like people at home to forget that we have in Russia around 20 million Muslims and that in the CIS we have a predominant, if you take the Asiatic part, Muslim population, and if you start a crusade for Orthodoxy against the Muslims — and that is the principle — this would ultimately split one's own country and ultimately break up the CIS. But these people believe that the Orthodox ideal is not sufficiently defended by the Foreign Ministry.

Others believe that we should fight on the side of the Serbs whatever they do. We believe that Russia's interest in the Balkans lies in making peace among the peoples who are involved in this fratricidal war. Why? So that we can develop with all of them a special relationship through this, as it were, Slavic solidarity and closeness, and through our economic interests, since all of former Yugoslavia — and therefore each of the new states — is an economic partner for us, not just Serbia but also Croatia — a very important partner — and the others. Also, so that we do not get left to one side because man is not an island and a state is not an island, of a major world, or at least European, problem. We cannot simply sit here in Russia, calmly watching Slavs killing — it may not be Slavs, but people killing each other in the center of Europe, the violence, and so on. That is Russia's role as a great power.

[Notkin] Just a peacekeeping role? But what...

[Kozyrev interrupts] That will be the best guarantee of our continued presence, our economic, political, or other security interests. That is, we are making a contribution now to a settlement, which will later be a contribution to our presence, to our influence, and so on. That is a natural interest. We are a part of Europe, we are a part of the world. And we must have an influence on the development of events in a positive direction because then people will have a better attitude toward us, we will have better economic potential, we will have better political potential. It is all very simple.

[Notkin] You have worded our position sufficiently clearly, and if we believe that your position is correct and the president supports it, then it means that we have not lost anything in the Balkans and have made our feasible contribution. But there is another view, though.

The first view is the one you have just expounded and the second one sounds like this: Through Croatia Germany enters the Balkans and ousts us from this strategically important geopolitical region. Is this view based on ignorance, a projection of the 19th century on the present day, or is there a rational point?

[Kozyrev] Well, you know, it is a truly primitive view of people who have not learned or heard anything since the 18th or 19th centuries. Maybe it is not their fault but their misfortune because our textbooks did not go beyond 1917 or about that period when Vladimir Illich Lenin came and started introducing order by force, and since that time we have been waiting for Communism to come, either in 1960 or 1980. These people have overlooked an entire historical era, and that is why, for them, everything has become the way it was during Bismark and his time.

But I must say, though, that there is an element of that, although in a totally different shape. For instance, our public opinion shows a certain closeness to and liking for the Serbs. I repeat, though, that all are Slavs but the Serbs are a little bit closer historically. [sentence as heard] I assume that for many people in Germany, Croatia is a little bit closer historically. This does not mean that today's struggle in Yugoslavia is similar to that between Bismark and, say, [Russian diplomat Aleksandr] Gorchakov earlier. It is a different matter. The thing is that naturally this leaves a certain imprint, a certain shade, and this should be taken into account.

But here lies the Contact Group's strength. The Contact Group was set up because we can...[Kozyrev pauses] Because we can either trail behind the Serb fighters and, together with them, drag Russia now into military adventures or use our influence the way we have been doing, in order to urge the Serbs toward realistic positions and conciliation. The same is true of Germany. Quite possibly there are such hotheads in Germany who wish victory for the Croats and so on. But I think that the prevailing position is such that special ties between Germany and Croatia should be used in order to prompt them toward a settlement of any kind. But perhaps German positions, including economic ones, will always be a little bit better in Croatia than in the other republics while our positions will always be a little bit better — of course, if we take a sensible course in general and put our economy in order.

[Notkin] I see.

[A question from] Vladimir Sergeyevich Sergeyev, engineer: In the last "Itogi" newscast Kozyrev said that if Russia changes its foreign policy it will pay dearly for it. What did he have in mind?

[Kozyrev] I had in mind the following: If we give up a policy of implementing or protecting our interests through partnership and cooperation, we will find ourselves isolated and burdened with all the negative phenomena we used to have during the 70 years of the Soviet Union when we used to frighten the whole world and regard this as good positions and respect. In fact, we found ourselves cut off from the markets and we are now fighting discriminatory restrictions. All of this comes from the Soviet Union. Many people are now saying that the Soviet Union was a great power. What kind of great power if it did not even have a voice in the IMF, if we were admitted to the world markets only to sell raw materials, that is, on the most unequal terms? We are now trying to join the GATT, for instance. That is what I had in mind.

[Notkin] Andrey Vladimirovich, we do not have much time for arguing but under Stalin, Soviet occupation covered territory from Berlin to China. Didn't that mean we were a world power?

[Kozyrev] No, we were a world power, but that fact did us harm. We will always be a great power, but the question is how we are going to live. Either we will live like them — and for instance, our veterans who won World War II will have living standards comparable to those of German veterans who lost — or we will live like now when our victors, excuse me, sometimes get humanitarian aid from Germany.

[Notkin] Andrey Vladimirovich, we have five minutes and very many questions left: a short question and a short answer [from] Mikhail Grigoryevich, pensioner: What is Kozyrev's nationality? What is he campaigning against now? He used to be against NATO before.

[Kozyrev laughs] What has nationality to do with NATO?

[Notkin] I'm only conveying the questions.

[Kozyrev] It is difficult to answer this question.

[Notkin] Next, from Vladimir Gritsenko, lawyer. For how much longer will diplomats be paid meager salaries? Are any efforts being made to improve their situation?

[Kozyrev] I have been asking myself this question, too.

[Notkin] Corruption has been reportedly disclosed in the Foreign Ministry's consular service. What measures is the minister taking?

[Kozyrev] We are doing everything we can to expose corruption if it is based on facts but, on the other hand, in the absence of facts or trial I would not like to cast suspicions on people who, on the whole, work hard

processing a huge number of documents daily. After all, they should be treated with respect. But if facts of corruption are proven in court I will never protect a crook.

[Notkin] Andrey Vladimirovich, this shows again how unsatisfactorily your public relations work because when militiamen were in conflict with the consular service they fed information to the press continuously while your press department believes that you are such aristocrats that you do not need anything of the kind.

[Kozyrev] Or the contrary, we believe that there is no need to compound the impression of chaos in the country by interdepartmental squabbles.

[Notkin] [From] Gennadiy Fomin: You, Mr. Kozyrev, are a deputy for Murmansk region. What have you done for the region?

[Kozyrev] I have done many things. I am trying to help in socioeconomic development. For instance, I send [my] children for summer vacations because there is little sunshine in the Far North, so we send them to the southern regions and so on. Everything an ordinary deputy would do. I visit the region often, I care about people and try to help them.

[Notkin] [From] Dmitriy Vasechkin, student: When will mafia structures stop operating and taking bribes near embassies? False lists are being used there; people can't get into embassies for two-three months and only two-three people receive applications.

[Kozyrev] Are we talking about submitting documents to foreign embassies situated here in Moscow?

[Notkin] Yes.

[Kozyrev] Well, we are constantly in touch with embassies, we ask them to simplify the procedures, to put more staff in the reception departments, to cut red tape, and so on. I am afraid that we will have to take retaliatory measures perhaps against certain countries which are now putting too harsh visa requirements on Russian citizens. Anyway, we have submitted such proposals to the government. I would not exaggerate the problem, but it exists and is caused by the great number of people who wish to travel abroad.

[Notkin] [From] Galina Sergeyeva, student: What profession did you dream of as a child? Did you want to be in this post?

[Kozyrev] I could not even dream about this ever, but generally speaking I am a professional diplomat. I wanted to be a diplomat, I was trained accordingly. I am working in accordance with my qualification. Of course, the pinnacle of any young diplomat's dreams is to become an ambassador, I think. In the institute we

used to say that the post of ambassador is the crown of one's career. To become a minister was somehow outside the context, so this came, frankly speaking, somewhat unexpectedly, naturally. But I have gotten used to it over five years.

[Notkin] You are now standing for election to the Duma for Murmansk region. According to presidential decree, within three days of being elected, you have to decide whether to remain as minister or serve in the Duma. How will you decide this problem?

[Kozyrev] That, as they say, is an interesting question! And the problem there is that if the president's policy line stays the same as it was from the very start...[Kozyrev pauses] Although, of course, it is said that we are performing diplomatic acrobatics and so on and so forth — we do indeed react to changes in the situation, we have to; otherwise, it would not be diplomacy, we would be merely marching along sticking to a specific policy line, so to speak. But all in all, the guiding orientation of our policy remains open to cooperation. There is currently no about-turn in policy, such as I have spoken about and for which we would all have to pay dear. So, of course, as the saying goes, the natural tendency, and, indeed, my heart lies in continuing my work in my ministerial post.

At the same time, in these last two years I have gotten so attached to my voters and have thrown myself so enthusiastically into these affairs in Murmansk region, that there, too — everything is going on there now, you understand, and it is impossible to abandon this, too. So that is the situation I am in now. I feel I have to carry on in both places. I have no idea what the outcome will be.

[Notkin] Andrey Vladimirovich, I wish you success in both areas.

[Kozyrev] Thank you.

Lebed Addresses Chechen Crisis, Elections, New Movement

*LD1810172595 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1538 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 18 (INTERFAX) — A continuation of the Chechen crisis could lead to unpredictable consequences for the political situation in Russia, General Aleksandr Lebed, one of the Congress of Russian Communities leaders, said at a news conference in Moscow Wednesday.

He emphasized that the crisis could make any elections impossible and overturn the whole situation in Russia within hours.

Lebed said that the army should be used only for protecting the country from outside dangers and never as a police force.

According to Lebed, it is possible that the Chechen crisis can be ended peacefully because all wars end up in talks sooner or later.

Lebed said that Russia has no business in NATO and that Russian units could take part in peacekeeping operations on an equal footing with NATO forces but never under the command of NATO generals.

Lebed explained that the Honor and Motherland military patriotic movement set up last week will work for the revival of the Russian army with the aid of highly skilled officers of the reserve who will do this job without pay.

Lebed Chairs 'Honor and Motherland' Constituent Conference

MM1810133395 Moscow TRUD in Russian
18 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Georgiy Mantulin: "When You Feel Aggrieved for the State"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The constituent conference of the public movement "Honor and Motherland," which is dedicated to the Russian Army's problems, was held in Moscow 15 October. The Congress of Russian Communities [KRO] is the main initiator of the creation of this movement. The initiative was supported by the Independent Servicemen's Trade Union and a number of other organizations working on Armed Forces problems. Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed was elected chairman of the movement.

In his speech to the conference, A. Lebed began by highlighting the need for the constant military improvement of Russia's Armed Forces. He stressed that it is precisely because the Army has been dragged into the political arena that there has been a loss of military professionalism and demoralization has occurred. This is why the "Honor and Motherland" movement sees the elaboration of proposals on the concept of the country's national security and participation in the preparation and implementation of the military reform as the priority tasks for 1995-1996.

It goes without saying that the military cannot stand aside from political life: They are citizens of Russia and are far from indifferent to the country's fate. Furthermore, "to protect the motherland" is a specific requirement of their profession, which is why many of them have a highly developed sense of civic responsibility. Thus it is no surprise that the "Honor and Motherland" movement has decided not to restrict itself to military problems alone. Its tasks include the protection of the

"lawful rights and interests of Russian Federation citizens and, first and foremost, of those most in need of social support" as well as "the provision of assistance to fellow countrymen abroad."

In the course of his speech Aleksandr Lebed stressed, among other things, that our country and army are communicating vessels, each of which demands attention so that the Army's tasks cannot be resolved outside of the state framework.

General world problems were also considered. For example, Colonel General I. Rodionov, chief of the General Staff Academy who has joined the "Honor and Motherland" movement's council, also delivered a report to the conference in which he stated: The world is certainly not developing today in the way that the authors of the new political thinking would like, but in conditions of global rivalry and the fight for strategic survival in the 21st century. It is hard to disagree with that conclusion if you analyze the developments in the world.

The "Honor and Motherland" movement's constituent conference was held almost immediately after the well-known tragic events in central Moscow. Let us recall that an unknown terrorist seized a busload of foreign tourists near the Kremlin Saturday evening. In this connection S. Goncharov, president of the "Alfa" special subunit veterans' association and a member of the KRO council where he represents the interests of the other special subunits "Vityaz" and "Vypel," raised the question of the reform of the country's law enforcement system. This issue also produced an impassioned response among conference participants. After all, everyone knows that terrorists have been having a particularly easy time of it in our country lately.

Time will tell what the newly created movement, which unites the military and civilians, is capable of doing. However, it is reassuring that there are people in Russia who feel a sense of grievance not just for themselves or their faction but also for the state.

Thus, the thesis that there has been a split in the KRO, put forward by certain political scientists in connection with the creation of the "Honor and Motherland" movement, has not been borne out. On the contrary, what the conference demonstrated more was a tendency toward the strengthening of the KRO and the inclusion of a new detachment of like-minded people in its ranks.

**Rybkin: Republics' Economic Integration
'Inevitable'**

LD1810181595 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1609 GMT 18 Oct 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, October 18 (INTERFAX) — Economic integration between Russia and Belarus is inevitable, Ivan Rybkin, speaker of the Russian State Duma, told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview.

In his view, "most close to an economic rapprochement with Russia are Belarus and Kazakhstan".

"Rapprochement with Ukraine will, apparently, involve greater difficulties", I. Rybkin believes. He explained that, on the one hand, there are outstanding political problems in the Russian-Ukrainian relations, but on the other, the Ukrainian leadership "behaves extremely cautiously, considering the political situation in the country".

In forecasting, at the request of INTERFAX, the possibility of a political reunification of at least a part of the republics, which once were part of the USSR, I. Rybkin said that "a maximum of what is most likely to be expected now is a confederation".

**Shumeyko 'Lashes Out' at Jan 1992 Reforms in
New Book**

LD1810144695 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1426 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 18 (INTERFAX) — Speaker of Russia's upper house of parliament Vladimir Shumeyko has brought out a book in which he lashes out at reforms launched in January 1992.

The result of the reforms has been a degrading and progressively semicolonial, raw material economy, while "democracy remains a goal rather than a reality," Federation Council Chairman Shumeyko says in the book, entitled "The Russian Reforms and Federalism" and published in an edition of 3,000 copies.

Nevertheless, he is against "going back to authoritarian methods," which "would lead to even greater instability, new economic and social difficulties and, under particularly dramatic circumstances, human deaths." "But worst of all, our descendants would inherit the same kind of problems and conflicts, only far more difficult to solve."

"It was a strategic mistake that when choosing what course to take in democratic reforms serious differences between various regions of the Russian state were virtually ignored and insufficient account was taken of the national traditions and the entire cultural heritage and historical experience accumulated by the peoples

of Russia, including in the Soviet period," Shumeyko argues.

The book, published in Moscow several days ago, was discussed on Wednesday [18 October] at a meeting of political scientists, economists and journalists.

**Government Asserts Control Over Agencies'
Foreign Pacts**

MM1810151095 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 3

[Russian Federation Government Directive No. 1388, signed by V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government, on 9 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the federal law "On Russian Federation International Treaties":

1. The Russian Foreign Ministry and other federal executive agencies in conjunction or by agreement with the Russian Foreign Ministry are to submit proposals to the Russian Federation Government by 1 December 1995 in accordance with Point 1 of Russian Federation Presidential Directive No. 370 of 7 August 1995 on "Questions of Submitting to the State Duma Interim International Treaties Applied by the Russian Federation."

Federal executive agencies are to submit to the Russian Foreign Ministry within a month lists of international treaties in relation to which any decision on accepting them as mandatory for the Russian Federation is to be adopted in the form of a federal law and whose interim application by the Russian Federation began prior to the entry into force of the federal law "On the Russian Federation's International Treaties."

The Russian Foreign Ministry is to submit a list of these treaties to the Russian Federation Government by 15 November 1995.

2. Federal executive agencies are to rigorously observe the procedure laid down by the federal law "On Russian Federation international treaties" governing the conclusion of Russian Federation international treaties. The signing of Russian Federation international treaties without the adoption of the relevant decisions envisaged by the aforementioned federal law is prohibited.

3. Russian Federation Government deputy chairmen and the Russian Federation Government Apparatus are to monitor the implementation of this directive.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government

[Dated] 9 October 1995

No. 1388

Interior Ministry Approves Development Strategy Until 2005

*LD1810172895 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1538 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 18 (INTERFAX) — The collegium of the Russian Interior Ministry which met in Moscow Wednesday approved the strategy of the ministry development until the year 2005, a high-ranking Interior Ministry official told INTERFAX.

The strategy was worked out on the instructions of the Russian president and envisages gradual reform of the ministry. The reform will be divided into three stages: 1995-first half of 1996, 1996-2000 and 2000-2005.

Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov told the collegium that the reform will be carried out "on the basis of prudent innovation and prudent conservatism." In particular, the strategy provides for the creation within the ministry of a General Staff for tracking and analyzing developments in Russia's criminal world and working out relevant prevention measures.

In addition, the Interior Ministry official stressed that the strategy envisages that all units directly involved in fighting crime will be preserved. In particular, it refers to the Department for Fight Against Organized Crime.

INTERFAX has learned that the proposal to disband regional anti-organized crime departments was not supported by the collegium. As for the new structure of the ministry's central staff, the collegium approved the creation of an internal security department directly subordinated to the interior minister. The department will work to prevent attempts by criminals to penetrate into Interior Ministry units and will fight corruption.

In addition, the ministry's press office, to be reorganized as well, will also be directly subordinated to the minister.

The strategy approved by the collegium as a whole will be completed and presented to Kulikov within 10 days, after which it will be presented to the Russian president.

Representatives of the Prosecutor General's Office and Federal Security Service as well as Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhrai took part in the work of the collegium.

Policeman Killed in Car Blast at Moscow Airport

*LD1810151795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1457 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[By Larisa Kislinskaya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW October 18 (ITAR-TASS) — A 40-year old police major, Isa Isayev, was

killed in a car blast at the Moscow Vnukovo airport on Tuesday, while his colleague was hospitalised with heavy burns.

Isayev and Boris Murtazaliyev, deputy head of a commando force, arrived in Moscow from Dagestan on the Caspian sea and were met by the director of the LUKoil-Kam company and his driver, police told Tass on Wednesday. LUKoil-Kam is a branch of the major private LUKoil giant, but police did not explain what the two officers had to do with the company.

When the four got into the company's Mitsubishi car, an explosive device went off.

The driver and the director were also injured.

Media Issues

Chernomyrdin Views Media's 'Difficult Economic Position'

*LD1810121195 Moscow NTV in Russian
1600 GMT 17 Oct 95*

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, leader of the "Our Home Is Russia" election bloc, met with the heads of the state television and radio companies today. With the election marathon looming, they are in a difficult economic position.

[Unidentified correspondent] Given that the successful conduct of the election campaign will to a great extent depend on the mass media, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin addressed a conference of heads of Russian Federation state television and radio companies today. [video shows meeting in progress, with Chernomyrdin speaking from rostrum]

[Begin Chernomyrdin recording] The election campaign period will be a good school of democracy for all of us and will make our society much more mature. The mass media must, of course, play a great role in this — that means all of you present here today. [end recording]

State television is short of finance today, however, and is going through serious financial problems. The Russian Federation's television and radio companies now owe 600 billion rubles to communications enterprises. Given this, the government will give them support, on the grounds that the television and radio companies should retain the status of federal institutions. In addition, a federal program defining the future of television and radio in Russia is being drawn up by the president's staff. The program enlarges on the recent presidential edict on television broadcasting, under which three companies are recognized as Russian Federation-wide:

ORT, the Russia channel, and St. Petersburg's Channel Five. As for the regional mass media, they, Viktor Chernomyrdin said, are in need of serious restructuring:

[Begin Chernomyrdin recording] This is very important indeed, when millions are viewing and perhaps want to see something else altogether. When it is all just to show off, when we see — as people say to me: Why show Bosnia, Chechnya, and particular areas when I want to see Tula, I want to see how people live in Khabarovsk Territory today, or other things — but we are not showing that. [end recording]

Because of this, there are plans to set up a new television channel in Russia, TV-Region, the work of which will take account of the broadcasting interests of each component part of the federation.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Official Claims Chemical Weapons 'Securely Guarded'

LD1810115595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1130 GMT 18 Oct 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 18 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian chemical weapons are reliably controlled and guarded and any stealing of them is ruled out, Deputy Chief of the Radiological, Biological and Chemical Protection troops of the Russian Federation, Major-General Viktor Kholstov told ITAR-TASS today.

He was commenting on American press reports about the possibility of stealing toxic agents from Russian army warehouses and bases.

The General said the reports had nothing to do with reality. He explained that all the places where toxic agents were located were guarded in strict compliance with the rules made to highest standards. He added that foreign military delegations, including American, could see it for themselves when visiting warehouses and storage facilities in keeping with inter-governmental agreements on chemical disarmament supervision.

The amounts of toxic agents in Russia have long since ceased to rank among classified information. Russian Chief of Staff Mikhail Kolesnikov formally announced that Russia had 40,000 tonnes of toxic agents, the figure that cannot be called into doubt.

The Defence Ministry told Russian and Foreign Journalists that the bulk of toxic agents is held in steel drums and tanks, and the remainder is encapsulated in mines and artillery shells.

In the United States, toxic agents are stored in aluminium containers, which poses a great danger in emergencies, should they arise, General Kholstov said.

The General found unconvincing foreign press allegations that "the outsiders who visited Russian chemical facilities found the level of security there very low." He said access to the bases and storage facilities was restricted, and there could be no "outsiders," just as there could be none at the similar U.S. army installations. All official delegations visiting such storage facilities in Russia reported that the security and guard levels were "sufficient."

Russia is now busy preparing to utilise its toxic agents. This work is being conducted openly and has been extensively discussed, including at international conferences on chemical disarmament, the General said.

He recalled however, that the process of elimination of chemical weapons is costly and science-intensive and requires special technology. The costs include spending for the upkeep of the employees of the facilities specialising in the utilisation of toxic agents and for environmental protection.

All these problems taken together do not detract attention from the necessary security measures at the chemical facilities which are constantly and securely guarded, General Kholstov said.

Kurchatov Institute Guards Against Nuclear Terrorism

LD1810225595 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian
0700 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia's Interior Ministry has information about possible acts of terrorism by Shamil Basayev groups on Russia's nuclear facilities. Many of these facilities are in densely populated areas of Moscow.

Considerable reserves of highly enriched uranium are kept in the Kurchatov Institute, and should they be seized, terrorists would get hold of the most dangerous weapon — a nuclear rod. Such a possibility has arisen with the evident success of Shamil Basayev's detachment in Budennovsk. Nikolay Bondarev, director of the Kurchatov Institute's operating conditions [direktor po rezhimu] does not rule out such a possibility.

[Begin Bondarev recording] Terrorists are tempted to make use of such a terrible weapon as the nuclear weapon. [end recording]

But it is practically impossible to penetrate or to approach the uranium store undetected. An electronic protection system registers all movements around and

in the facility. Only a limited circle of specialists can enter the store. Only one person at a time can enter through double doors. An electronic pass has to be shown first. If it is in the computer's memory, the first door opens. Then it shuts. If you don't manage to punch in the correct numbers after a certain time — numbers known only to you and the electronic machine — you will remain between the two doors. If you manage to do so then the door will open. But even after all that, you don't get to the store right away. And if you do get to it and do put even a gram of uranium in your pocket you won't leave. The electronic device registers all movement, not only of radioactive materials but also of ordinary metal. Specialists claim that such a guard system reliably protects nuclear facilities both against theft and possible terrorist acts. However, not all nuclear facilities have such protection.

Daily Questions Reason for Rejection of U.S. Astronaut

*MM1810154595 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
18 Oct 95 pp 1-2*

[Article by Sergey Leskov: "American Bean Pole Dismissed From Russian Detachment of Cosmonauts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Scandalous news from Zvezdnyy Gorodok: The U.S. astronaut Scott Parazinski, who has spent two months training for a flight to the Mir station at the Russian Cosmonaut Training Center, has been debarred from training sessions. The official version states that Parazinski's anthropometric characteristics do not conform to the demands of the Russian Soyuz TM transport craft.

Scott Parazinski has already flown in space, and his 182 cm height did not prevent him working on the shuttle. The Americans also intend to fly to our Mir exclusively on board shuttles. The Soyuz TM will be used only in emergency situations, which, incidentally, have never yet happened. Medics explain that the U.S. astronaut was rejected not only because of his height but because of his excessively long torso, which makes it difficult to manufacture a specially contoured seat and increases the risk when the descent vehicle lands.

But the official version leaves us bewildered. Why did they drag the guy over to Zvezdnyy Gorodok from America and occupy themselves with him for two months when it was simpler to leaf through the candidate's medical chart? Why did we close our eyes to the height of our cosmonauts Aksenov, Ryumin, Solovyev, Ivanchenkov, and Serebrov? Even now cosmonaut Kozun, who looks down on the "flawed" American, is training in the detachment.

In each of these cases the special decision was adopted by specialists of the "Energiya" Science and Production Association, the "Zvezda" Science and Production Association (which makes seats and full-pressure suits), and the Institute of Medical and Biological Problems in consultation with one another. A package of technical and medical measures was worked out, making it possible to reduce the risk to a tall cosmonaut. The Americans asked us to think up something clever for their candidate, too. There was plenty of time — the flight was planned for May 1997, but the Russian side did not alter its formally unassailable stand.

Questioning by IZVESTIYA's correspondent as to the reasons for dismissing Scott Parazinski elicited such a pained reaction from our specialists that a doubt could not help creeping in: Is innocent anthropometry the real reason? For example, Aleksandr Aleksandrov, leader of the group of cosmonauts of the "Energiya" Science and Production Association, who used to be noted for his politeness in dealing with journalists, said: "This is none of your business. A newspaper should not take an interest in this. I could lose respect for IZVESTIYA." Each department sent me off to a different address, at the same time adding: Don't poke your nose into other people's affairs....

Trustworthy and very well-informed sources give a different version of the tall American's dismissal from the Russian detachment of cosmonauts. Yes, as happened before, it was possible to find technical possibilities for the astronaut's flight on the Soyuz TM. But, as has been remarked, the Americans, who are paying for the joint project, have recently started talking to us in a bass voice, in a commandeering tone. We took the hint, decided to show our character, and punished our partner, who forgot himself, for his disrespectful attitude. If there had been friendship, there would not have been anthropometry.

But material considerations are even more important. The issue of reequipping the Soyuz TM craft in the direction of broadening the anthropometric limitations is now being considered. Using the Soyuz TM as a rescue craft for the Alfa international station has been proposed. According to our logic, if the Americans want to use Russian technology, they ought to fork out the money for this program. For the rejected Parazinski, with his nonregulation centimeters, is by no means the tallest of the U.S. astronauts....

Are there any other limitations for Russian craft? Traditionally they are considerably tougher than in the United States. It is curious that, on selecting cosmonauts and astronauts for the first detachments, the Americans set a condition of at least 1,000 hours

of flying experience, while on our side Leonov had the maximum — just 230 hours. But medicine was very strict. Even now a cosmonaut must be between 164 and 185 cm tall, and his weight cannot exceed 85 kg. Comparative parameters of a cosmonaut in a sitting position are calculated scrupulously. Something else is also known, however: Cosmonauts are selected on their health, but demands are made on their mind.

Federal Assembly

Duma Asks Yeltsin for National Security Doctrine

LD1810134295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1248 GMT 18 Oct 95

[By Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 18 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian State Duma has asked President Boris Yeltsin to submit a draft national security doctrine to the parliament before December 31, 1995. The Lower House today adopted a resolution, indicating that the current state of the Russian Federation's national security is unsatisfactory.

The MPs urged the President to pool the efforts of the governing structures with scientific quarters in order to draw up a national security doctrine as quickly as possible. Having expressed "extreme alarm concerning the national security of Russia", the MPs stressed that the adoption of such a document would allow the President, the Parliament, and the Government to consistently coordinate their efforts in order to resolve all the related problems in keeping with the Law on National Security.

At the same time, the State Duma included a passage in its resolution urging its own members to consider and approve the 1996 budget with due account of the current state of Russia's national security.

Primakov Cites Foreign Intelligence Priorities

LD1810204995 Moscow INTERFAX in English
2020 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 18 (INTERFAX) — The Russian State Duma on Wednesday approved in its first reading an amendment to the law on foreign intelligence saying that the Federal Assembly would be in control of the country's foreign intelligence service (SVR), along with the president.

SVR director Yevgeniy Primakov introduced the presidential bill giving assurances that the department was discharging its functions despite being financed far less than its U.S. counterpart, CIA.

He named among the biggest threats to national security the spread of nuclear weapons, widening of the so-called

crisis zone in Europe, attempts to try to defuse separatist trends in what used to be the Soviet Union and the weakening of the Russian armed forces.

Primakov put an annual capital flight from Russia at roughly at \$15-20 billion.

The new law provides for setting up foreign intelligence subcommittees in both houses of the Russian parliament which are expected to consider, among other things, allocations needed for the SVR upkeep.

State Duma Approves Defense Bill on Second Reading

LD1810133895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1252 GMT 18 Oct 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 18 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian State Duma lower house of parliament today approved in second reading the Defence Bill envisaging that the country's defence must be ensured by the Russian Armed Forces, Border troops, Interior Ministry's troops, Railway Guard Forces, troops of the Federal Government Communications and Information Agency under the President of Russia, and Civil Defence troops.

Military formations of the Interior Ministry, and Engineering and Road-Building formations subordinate to the federal executive shall be created in war time to deal with specific assignments.

The existence and creation of other military formations with military structures, arms and military equipment or having provisions for military service with them, whose status is not regulated by the Federal laws, shall be forbidden and made punishable by law, the document stated.

The Bill also stipulates that the use of Russian armed forces with their weaponry for fulfilling tasks unrelated to the purposes for which they were designed, is effected by the President of Russia in conformance with the Federal laws.

Duma Commission To Monitor Ossetian-Ingush Accord

LD1810223495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1320 GMT 18 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — The lower chamber of the Russian parliament has

set up a monitoring commission to supervise the implementation of the agreement between North Ossetia and Ingushetia on putting into force the Russian president's edicts on dealing with the aftermath of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict. A statement to this effect was adopted today at a plenary session of the State Duma.

Bair Zhamsuyev, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Nationalities Affairs, was appointed the head of the commission. The commission also includes Pavel Shteyn, chairman of the Federation Council Committee on the Federation, Federation Treaty, and Regional Policy; Ruslan Pliyev, chairman of the national assembly of the Republic of Ingushetia; Yermak Dzamsolov, deputy of the Republic of North Ossetia; representatives of a number of Duma committees; and experts.

Duma Sets Time Limit for Prosecutor's Appointment

*LD1810115995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1150 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW October 18 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian State Duma passed a law Wednesday which limits the president to 30 days in nomination of a prosecutor general in case his candidate is voted down by parliament.

"If a candidate proposed by the President to the post the Prosecutor General does not receive the necessary number of votes in the Federation Council, the President has in 30 days to submit a new candidate", the Duma said in the law which is yet to be approved by the upper house and signed by the president.

The lower house also introduced a five-year term of office for the prosecutor.

The decision came a week before the expected discussion of Yuriy Skuratov in the Federation Council who was named as a new Russian Prosecutor General.

It was clearly triggered by the case with former acting Prosecutor General Aleksey Ilyushenko who has never been approved in his position and was dismissed from the post after corruption accusations regarding his relatives.

Duma Adopts Law on 1995 Federal Pensions Budget

*LD1810134395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 0924 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Today, the State Duma adopted as a basis the federal law "On the budget of the Russian Federation pension fund for 1995." The document will be sent immediately to the Federation Council for approval.

Deputies from the lower chamber propose that the pension fund budget should be approved with income totalling 92 trillion rubles [R] and expenditure amounting to R89.8 trillion and income exceeding expenditure by R2.2 trillion.

The law clearly ascribes the sources of income for the pension fund. The law sets out a number of categories of payments in addition to pensions, including compensation payments to fit individuals of working age caring for citizens who are unable to work as well as expenditure to increase pensions for those who took part in the Great Fatherland War. The payment of grants for special occasions is also envisaged.

18 Oct State Duma Budget Proceedings Detailed

*MM1910130895 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
19 Oct 95 p 1*

[Report by Sergey Chugayev: "Duma Sends Draft Budget to Conciliation Commission and Increases Own Privileges"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 18 October State Duma plenary session proved to be extremely productive for adopted laws. Its main result was the resolution of the stalemate over the draft federal budget for 1996 which developed at the last session.

The deputies finally managed to reach an agreed decision: The draft budget was rejected and sent to a conciliation commission. Left-wing factions insisted that the decree compulsorily include a paragraph on the draft's rejection. They got their way. This provides an opportunity to reconsider the draft budget's strategic provisions.

Laws on defense (in its second reading) and on state support for the mass media were also adopted. The first envisages, in particular, that the deployment of the Armed Forces involving the use of weapons to carry out tasks unrelated to their function is effected by the Russian president in accordance with federal laws. The second envisages the exemption from value-added tax

of sales of mass media and book publishing products associated with education, culture, and science. Plus a number of other measures. But this law's fate is not absolutely clear. Most likely it will again meet resistance in the upper chamber of parliament from the executive branch too, because in this law the Duma members are again trying to put the matter of state control of the press under their control.

The deputies did not forget about themselves during the debates. They adopted a law on making amendments to the Law on the Status of Deputy. This legislative act envisages that on reaching pension age any Duma deputy must receive a pension amounting to no less than 75 percent of a deputy's remuneration (besides wages this includes premiums for length of service, intensity of work, and such like) as of the day a pension is awarded.

Previously this law was rejected by the Federation Council. While the government regarded it as an attempt by the deputies to secure additional privileges for themselves. The "Russia's Democratic Choice" and "Yabloko" factions came out against the law. Thus, the Duma members had no chance of overcoming the upper chamber's veto.

But the law's supporters took another route: Communist Deputies O. Begov and A. Bokov quickly drew up an apparently new draft law which needed a simple majority of deputies' votes to be adopted. Thanks to the support of the Communists, Agrarians, and Liberal Democrats it was possible to muster this majority without particular difficulty.

Zadornov Urges Duma, Government Accord on Budget

*LD1910122695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1149 GMT 19 Oct 95*

[By Robert Serebrennikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW October 19 (ITAR-TASS) — "Unless the government takes steps to reach accords with the State Duma, the 1996 draft federal budget stands no chances of being passed in the Duma," said Mikhail Zadornov, the Chairman of the Duma Committee on Budget, Taxes, Banks and Finance.

Commenting on the decision of the Duma which turned down the draft budget during its first reading on Wednesday, Zadornov expressed the hope for reaching a compromise in the conciliatory commission which will be formed to reach agreement on the main indexes of the budget for the next year. The commission will include representatives of the State Duma, the Federation Council and the Government.

Zadornov said the State Duma has enough time to pass the 1996 draft budget. According to the Duma's schedule, the draft budget could be discussed on November 10. The parliament and the government can reach accord on a basis of a verified forecast of the inflation rate and the government's dropping a number of proposals on taxes. The built-in mechanism for real financing of expenditures in the linkage with the quarterly budget will be discussed. So it will be possible to adjust expenditures quarter-by-quarter. The exchange of opinions with Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov and other officials of the Finance Ministry indicated the readiness to consider these positions.

The conciliatory commission will have its first meeting next Monday or Tuesday, Zadornov said.

Rybkin Urges Duma To Adopt 1996 Federal Budget

*LD1810134795 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1146 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 18 (INTERFAX) — Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin hopes that the 1996 federal budget will be adopted by the current Duma after being improved by the Conciliatory Commission.

Rybkin told INTERFAX they will try to hand over the improved draft of the 1996 budget to the Federation Council by early December, so that the upper parliament chamber will be able to approve it before the term of its office expires.

The State Duma believes budget revenues should be increased and the structure of spending items should be changed "for maximum support of domestic producers."

It is also necessary to increase spending on social security for pensioners and the disabled, said Rybkin.

More attention should be given to solution of unemployment problems, noted the Duma Speaker.

Council Wants 21% of 1996 Budget for Defense

*LD1810140095 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1146 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 18 (INTERFAX) — The security and defense Committee of the upper house of the Russian parliament, the Federation Council, believes that next year's defense spending must take 5.2%-6.0% of the GDP. The security and defense committee advised the conciliatory commission working on the 1996 budget to keep defense spending at 21%-23% of all federal budget spending.

Security and defense committee chairman Petr Shirshov was speaking at an early session of the Federation Council on Tuesday.

The conciliatory commission was also advised to set investment into defense research and development at 10%-15% of overall defense spending, and into appropriations of military equipment at 22%-25%.

Council Backs Referendum on Belarus Integration

MM1810143095 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 3

["Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council Statement on Holding a Russian Federation Referendum," signed by the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council and dated Moscow, 3 October 1995, under the general heading: "Will We Fraternize With Belarusians? Federation Council Urges Us To Hold Referendum on This Issue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During the 14 May 1995 referendum in the Republic of Belarus 85 percent of voters backed Republic of Belarus President A.R. Lukashenka's policy of economic integration with Russia. The Republic of Belarus has repeatedly voiced its willingness for closer relations with the Russian Federation and for a long-term economic and political union involving our states.

Fortifying the integration processes between our countries by the direct will of our citizens would be a clear example of the people's influence over Russia's policy and would make it possible to strengthen confidence in the state and democratic values.

The Federation Council deems it advisable to hold a Russian Federation referendum on the issue of deepening Russian-Belarusian economic and political integration. The upper house of parliament asks the Russian Federation president, the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma, and the Russian Federation Government to back the idea of putting this question to a referendum.

The Federation Council asks political parties and other public organizations and movements to back the holding of a Russian Federation referendum on the question of deepening Russian-Belarusian economic and political integration.

[Signed] The Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council
Moscow, 3 October 1995
No. 589

Regional Affairs

Chechnya Reportage; Military, Negotiations, Restoration

Fighting Reported in Achkoy-Martan

LD1910093195 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE
AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian
0855 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Anatoliy Shkirko, commander of the temporary joint federal forces in Chechnya has told a news conference in Grozny that Russian Federation troops have entered Achkhoy-Martan and that fighting is going on inside the village, Moscow Echo radio station was told by Vladimir Zorin, deputy head of the territorial directorate of bodies of executive power in Chechnya.

He said "the population of Achkhoy-Martan gave the Russian Federation troops the task of ousting the fighters from the village."

"There there were no casualties among the civilian population yesterday," Zorin said.

Zorin Denies Offensive in Achkoy-Martan

LD1910113495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1055 GMT 19 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Grozny, 19 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — In an exclusive interview today with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Vladimir Zorin, first deputy head of the territorial executive bodies in Chechnya categorically denied the report that has appeared in some of the mass media about an alleged "offensive by Russian forces against Achkhoy-Martan."

He said that the military command had confirmed that the situation in Achkhoy-Martan — where the demand had been made for the disarming of the militants — remained unchanged. General Anatoliy Shkirko, commander of the joint federal forces in Chechnya, stated at a news conference this morning that in Achkhoy-Martan "the militants are being forced out by the local inhabitants."

New General Blamed for Growing Tension

LD1810201995 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskv
in Russian 1900 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Movladi Udugov, press and information minister of Dudayev's government, told us that the situation in Chechnya is getting tense.

[Begin Udugov recording] The tension is growing. Four Russian military helicopters shelled mountain villages in Shatoyskiy District today. Initial reports say three people have been killed and 80 have been wounded in various degrees of severity. These shellings are being linked to Deynekin, the Air Force commander. They are also being linked with the arrival of General Shkirko, the new commander, who replaced Romanov. Despite his comment that he would continue Romanov's cause, his first move was an air raid on the village of Roshni-Chu, in which 28 people were killed and over 60 wounded, and air raids on the villages of Dargo and Belgatoy, in which 17 were killed and 23 were wounded in various degrees of severity. Gen. Shkirko's second step was expelling the Chechen delegation from Grozny. So with the advent of Gen. Shkirko, the situation is growing tense instead of improving. [end recording]

Shkirko Blasts Reported Plot Against Maskhadov

LD1910110695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1058 GMT 19 Oct 95

[By Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNY, October 19 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia's new commander of federal forces in Chechnya said certain forces were at work to disrupt the peace process in Chechnya and bring pressure to bear on peacemakers both in Russia and Chechnya.

"We have information that an act of terror is being prepared against Maskhadov (the chief Chechen negotiator)," Lieutenant-General Anatoliy Shkirko said at a press conference in Grozny today.

The positive "shifts achieved in the work of the Special Observer Commission through the efforts of General Romanov aiming to bring about a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Chechnya did not suit somebody," he said with reference to his predecessor Anatoliy Romanov, who was seriously injured in a bomb attack staged by terrorists in Grozny.

"We are also receiving information about the preparation of other large-scale acts of provocation. Their aim is the same — to disrupt the peace process," Shkirko said.

He pledged to "resolutely counteract such attempts. Our objective is to ensure peace in Chechnya and to implement in full measure the political course of the Russian Government and the President of the Russian Federation on this much-suffering land."

Dudayevites Ordered To Excite Discontent

LD1810212095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
2019 GMT 18 Oct 95

[By Olga Semenova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 18 (ITAR-TASS) — Two incidents in Grozny confirmed today the information, obtained as a result of wireless interception: Dzhokhar Dudayev ordered his men to "step up provocations against federal troops in Chechnya for purposes of kindling the discontent of the local population with Russian soldiers," a spokesman for the press centre of the command of the federal army group in Chechnya told ITAR-TASS.

He said that a KamAZ truck with a cargo of bricks was blown up today at about 13:00 at the entrance to Grozny from the side of Gudermes. Law enforcement agencies believe that under the cover of bricks the unidentified people, who were killed by the explosion, tried to bring to the Chechen capital a large consignment of explosives. For some unknown reason they were set off, and the truck together with the people inside was blown up to pieces.

At 13:45, a car without a number plate approached the market place at the Kirov Avenue in Grozny. Three men with submachine-guns jumped out of it and opened fire at the people, who were at the market place. Three people were wounded, and the gunmen drove away.

According to the spokesman for the press centre, all those incidents are not isolated cases. They "are the continuation of a series of the acts of terrorism and provocations against the Russian troops in Chechnya, aimed at further heightening tension and totally disrupting the peaceful settlement process."

'Strong-Arm' Option for Chechnya Seen Likely

MM1810150395 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 1

[Article by Vitaliy Stugovets: "'Chechen Deadlock.' Will a Political Solution Be Found or Will Everything Be Shouldered by the Army Again?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The situation in Chechnya has reached deadlock," — Arkadiy Volskiy, deputy chief of the Russian delegation at the talks on a peaceful settlement to the Chechen crisis, who flew into Grozny 16 October, stated. The agreement on the military block of questions is not being carried out, firing and provocation is continuing. That is a statement of fact, so to speak....

But, to be honest, the deadlock did not come about unexpectedly. Today everyone is admitting that Dudayev's

side used the "summer" truce very actively to prepare for new combat action. Forces were regrouped, arsenals filled with weapons and ammunition, and the command and control system reestablished. Ultimately, the gunmen simply had a rest and are now ready for more combat. What about the federal troops? Their main advantage is in their equipment. But now, in late fall, because of weather conditions, the possibilities of using not only aviation, but also armored equipment, which will simply get stuck in the fields and roads washed out by rain, are considerably reduced. Particularly in the mountain regions.

Dudayev's men also solved the food provision problem this summer. Let us recall, the large-scale combat actions in Chechnya were discontinued at the of April — just when field work began. Today, in mid-August, the harvest has already been gathered. And as far as one can tell, the male population, having been set free from agricultural concerns, is getting its hands on weapons again. And indeed very actively. Events in Achkhoy-Martan are confirmation of this; there gunmen who have been blockaded for four days by the federal troops are still refusing to hand over their weapons. And that is not the only case. Not a single gun has been handed in voluntarily in Chechnya in the past month.

What next? There are two possible solutions to the deadlock: the strong-arm method, whereby the wall standing on the path is knocked down, or else going back. The latter — withdrawing the federal troops from the areas they are now controlling — would immediately lead to the re-establishment of Dudayev's authority there. Which is what happened at the end of September, for example, in the southeast areas of Chechnya.

But the application of the strong-arm method, first and foremost the disarmament of the unlawful armed formations, is today scarcely likely to lead to a renewal of large-scale combat action. The locations of the main groupings of Dudayev's men are known, and they are mainly blockaded. With the exception of the most fearsome one, admittedly — the Grozny grouping, which numbers up to 1,500 gunmen. But it can be said that the federal authorities have almost "decapitated" it by demanding that the Dudayev delegation, which was a kind of coordinating center, should leave the Grozny area.

What path the Russian leadership chooses is unknown at present. But, according to observers, this question will be the main one on the agenda of the Russian Federation Security Council sitting scheduled for 18 October. For the time being, let us recall that the leaders of the "power" ministries reviewing the Chechnya problem

from the military-technical viewpoint are continuing to propose that a state of emergency be introduced in the Chechen Republic. It seems that Oleg Lobov, the Russian Federation president's official representative in Chechnya, who yesterday told an RIA correspondent that if the violations of the agreement and the shooting, killing, and mugging of civilians continue, the question of the introduction of a state of emergency will arise again, may join them.

Khasbulatov Favors Moving SOC From Grozny

LD1810172195 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1538 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNY, Oct 18 (INTERFAX) — The Union of Peoples for the Revival of the Republic, the Chechen political movement headed by Ruslan Khasbulatov, favors moving the Special Observer Commission (SOC) outside Grozny.

"The work of the SOC in Grozny destabilizes the situation in the city because it allows armed criminals to penetrate here," Saidbek Abdulkhanov, deputy head of the movement, told INTERFAX Wednesday.

He believes that Chechen rebel Commander Aslan Maskhadov's statement that the SOC is the only body that can really control the situation in the republic "does not correspond to the facts."

Abdulkhanov stressed that only Oleg Lobov, Russian president's envoy to Chechnya, can ensure the real constitutional order. "Our movement is ready to provide him all possible assistance in restoring order in Chechnya," he said.

"However, our movement categorically opposes declaring a state of emergency in the Chechen Republic," said Abdulkhanov. He believes that state of emergency will not contribute to stabilizing the situation in Chechnya, while it "will only indefinitely postpone parliamentary elections."

Abdulkhanov believes that Chechen law enforcement agencies have enough powers to restore order not resorting to the state of emergency. To achieve this goal it is necessary that they act in close cooperation with the federal administration in Chechnya, he said.

OSCE Not To Cut Mission Personnel

LD1810171995 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1538 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 18 (INTERFAX) — The OSCE leadership has reconsidered its earlier decision to cut personnel from its mission in Grozny, the director of the European cooperation

department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Yuri Ushakov, told INTERFAX Wednesday.

In addition, the current OSCE chairman submitted applications for two more military observers for Russia's approval, he said.

The diplomat recalled that a number of OSCE officers had to leave Chechnya because of a series of attacks on their mission in Grozny.

Only three to four officers remain in the OSCE mission in Grozny, Ushakov said.

"However, the first shock in the wake of the aggravation of the situation in the capital of Chechnya has gone, and the OSCE mission will act in full strength, supported by presidential envoy to Chechnya Oleg Lobov and his staff," he said.

Ushakov underlined that the latest meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council had decided to set aside additional funds for the Grozny mission before December 31, 1995. This is evidence of the institution's firm intention to leave its officers in Grozny despite the difficult situation there.

Ushakov declined to comment on the possible replacement of the OSCE mission head, Sandor Meszaros, who has been staying in Chechnya for about six months.

"This is a kind of diplomatic secret. I can say only that Sandor Meszaros intends to stay in Chechnya through the end of this year. We will see what happens next," he added.

Meszaros Cancels Meetings Due to Illness

*LD1910111395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1043 GMT 19 Oct 95*

[By Ruslan Maisigov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNY October 19 (ITAR-TASS) — A joint press conference, which was to be held on Thursday by Sandor Meszaros, leader of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] mission in Chechnya, and Vladimir Zorin, First Deputy Head of the Territorial Board of Russian Federal Executive Bodies in the Chechen Republic, has been cancelled because Mr Meszaros has fallen ill with pneumonia, a spokesman at the Press Service of the Territorial Board has told ITAR-TASS.

Mr Meszaros met with a motor accident in Grozny at the end of last week when a truck collided with his vehicle. At that time he was not seriously hurt, sustaining a face bruise and scratches that required suturing, according to ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko.

Romanov Stable; Medics Optimistic

*LD1910092695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0907 GMT 19 Oct 95*

[By Veronika Romanenkova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 19 (ITAR-TASS) — Lieutenant-General Anatoliy Romanov staying in the Burdenko Central Medical Hospital, is in a stable state. Medics regard this as a good sign and are optimistic. At consultation on Thursday morning medics decided on the tactic of treatment for the period ahead, Colonel-General Ivan Chizh, Chief of the main medical agency of the Russian Defence Ministry, told ITAR-TASS.

Romanov is still in a coma which, medics believe, may last for several weeks. This is a normal situation as the patient's brain has been seriously damaged. All the mechanical means will be employed all the time.

Chizh also said that the brain swelling has been relieved and everything will now depend on the brain structure's restoration. "And this takes time," Chizh said.

Khadzhiyev Details Changes in Chechnya

*LD1810135695 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1146 gmt 18 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 18 (INTERFAX) — Russian Prime-Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, the chairman of the Chechen Revival Government Salambek Khadzhiyev and the chairman of Chechnya's National Accord Committee Umar Avturkhanov met Tuesday to discuss the Chechen reconstruction effort.

Khadzhiyev told newsmen Tuesday in Moscow that more than 70% of farming units had already returned to work in Chechnya. More than 140,000 tonnes of grain and more than 100,000 tonnes of grapes had been harvested, he said, and more than 50 hectares of land had been plowed in preparation for next year's sowing season.

According to Khadzhiyev, the resumption of moves in the field of agricultural production translates into the creation of more than 70,000 jobs. Chechnya's hardest hit power production complex has restored almost 70% of its potential. Oilmen have produced more than 300,000 tonnes of oil and are planning to produce 600,000 tonnes of oil by the end of 1995, Khadzhiyev said. Large-scale production of high octane value car gasoline is to resume next month.

Khadzhiyev reported serious changes in the social field. He told newsmen that more than 90,000 retired citizens had already returned to Chechnya and were getting their

retirement benefits. Delayed retirement benefits for 1994 and 1993 are to be paid off in the next 5 or 6 months. Approximately 150,000 able-bodied citizens hold jobs although another 250,000 men and women are looking for jobs, Khadzhiev said.

In Khadzhiev's view, moves to square payments and meet reconstruction plans stumble on the most serious financial problem. As many as 35,000 housing units will be prepared for winter but what Chechnya needs, is 65,000 such units, Khadzhiev said. Moves are being made for the provision of 5,000 to 6,000 families with family vans.

In Avturkhanov's view, "it is wrong to hold Chechnya responsible for investment in the reconstruction efforts in Mozdok and Ingushetia." The Chechen government has received only 340 billion of the 850 billion ruble budget allocations but "is ready to render account for every single ruble," Avturkhanov said.

In Khadzhiev's view, the return of Ruslan Khasbulatov and Doku Zavgayev to Chechnya can hardly stabilize the domestic situation. Their return serves to split the constructive forces, Khadzhiev said. Both National Revival Government and National Accord Committee intend to "suggest that the Russian leaders decide who they are playing ball with." Khadzhiev hoped for "a positive response" to this suggestion.

Ministry Views Chechnya Restoration

LD1810200595 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1600 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The plan of work on restoring the communications, TV and radio broadcasting facilities in Chechnya is being implemented in accordance with the established schedule. However, today at a session of the collegium of the Communications Ministry it became clear that the volume of work is still very large.

At present the majority of telephone lines have been restored in Chechnya, including 93 percent of inter-town telephone lines. Radio broadcasting has been organized that covers the whole territory of the republic. Seventy percent of the republic's territory receives the first program of Russian Public Television, 60 percent receives the Russia TV channel and a local channel. Work is being carried out to set up a satellite network for Vaynakh, the national TV program.

Communication by courier and special communications have been restored. Nearly 80 percent of postal branches are functioning. However, the disruption of the supplies of materials, low quality of cable, and unreliable electricity and heat supply affect the quality of communi-

cations work. During nine months of the current year more than 187 billion rubles (R) have been already spent, R120 billion is needed in the fourth quarter, and more than R780 billion is needed in 1996. And although restoration work in Chechnya is going on in accordance with established schedule, in conditions of preparations for elections their speed is recognized as unsatisfactory.

Duma Commission To Observe Ossetian-Ingush Accord

LD1810150995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1439 GMT 18 Oct 95

[By Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 18 (ITAR-TASS) — The lower house of the Russian parliament has created an observer commission to monitor the implementation of an agreement reached between North Ossetia and Ingushetia on the elimination of after-effects of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict.

Chairman of the Duma Committee for Nationalities Bair Zhamsuyev has been appointed chairman of the newly established commission.

Ossetian President Begins Mending Fences

MK1910091295 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 2

[Unattributed untitled report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vladikavkaz — "Russia's leadership is interested in the speedy elimination of the aftermath of the Ossetia-Ingushetia conflict," stated the [North Ossetia] republic's president, Akhsarbek Galazov. In his words, "the time has come to make the reconciliation process irreversible and large-scale." "The authorities of North Ossetia are prepared for open and active cooperation with Ingushetia."

Tatars Protest Against Muslim Students' Action

LD1810222895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2026 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KAZAN, Oct 18 (INTERFAX) — A crowd of about 500 people took part in a rally in the Tatar capital Kazan on Wednesday to protest against the seizure of a former religious school building by Muslim students.

The school, Mukhammadia, used as premises by local newspaper editors and as a vocational center, was ordered by the authorities to be transferred to believers. It was then seized by students led by the country's spiritual leader Gabdulla Galiulla on Monday. They

occupied the building, banning entry to the staff of the two agencies.

Several newspaper staff workers managed to get inside the building as police intervened to evict the students. However, a group of about 20 students together with their leader locked themselves in several rooms on the second floor of the building.

Newspaper journalists are now back at their work place and the building has been sealed off by police.

Students Appeal to Muslims for Help

*LD1810182495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1716 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[By Nikolay Sorokin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KAZAN, October 18 (ITAR-TASS) — Moslem students, led by clergy leaders, still occupy a building of an old Moslem college — Mohamaddia Madrasah — in the capital of Tatarstan, which they seized on Monday.

They pledged not to leave it and appealed for help to all Moslems of this Russian republic in the Volga region.

"We shall not leave. We have appealed for help to all Moslems of Tatarstan," Gabdulla-Khazryat, Chairman of the Moslem Board of Tatarstan, told ITAR-TASS.

"We have come here, and the Islamic university is open (in this building)," Gabdulla-Kazryat said, claiming that he has already transferred his office to the seized building.

"For two years we have been appealing to the authorities to give us back the Mohamaddia Madrasah illegally confiscated in 1917, and at last, in May the cabinet adopted a resolution to remove all organisations from this building," Gabdulla Khazryat said.

However, organisations which have their offices in the building are unwilling to quit. Gabdulla-Khazryat said that one such organisation, the investment fund Kris invited a dozen of tough guys on Wednesday who tried to clean the building from the students. Police ignored students' appeals for help and only when the surrounding mob of Moslems started to dismantle the fence arming themselves with sticks, police decided to use tear-gas to stop the attackers.

Both the city and republican authorities still keep silence on the situation around the Moslem college. No reporters are allowed to approach the building sealed off by riot police units.

Before the 1917 Revolution, the building housed the city's first Mohamaddia Madrasah which graduated the best Tatar writers, playwrights and educational-

ists, Gabdulla-Khazrat's deputy Ishak-Haji Lutfulla told TASS.

Kalmykia President Accused of Wasting State Funds

*LD1810192795 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskv
in Russian 1600 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] General Valeriy Ochirov, deputy head of the Control Directorate of the administration of the Russian president, has accused Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, president of Kalmykia, of wasting \$3.5 million of state funds. Ochirov said that the procuracy general has instituted criminal proceedings over this case. Let me remind you that General Ochirov was Ilyumzhinov's main rival in the presidential elections in Kalmykia in 1993.

On 15 October this year Ilyumzhinov was reelected to the post of head of the republic. However, subsequently, Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Central Election Commission, stated that citizens' constitutional rights had been violated during the elections in the republic. However, the president of Kalmykia denied Ryabov's statements and described them as groundless. He said that deputies of the State Duma and the Federation Council had not reported any violations in the voting stations.

New President Denies Election Violations

*LD1810175995 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1538 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 18 (INTERFAX) — Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, the newly reelected president of the Republic of Kalmykia, brushed off accusations by the Russian Central Electoral Commission that citizens' constitutional rights were violated during the October 15 presidential elections in the republic.

In an interview with INTERFAX on Wednesday, Ilyumzhinov pointed out that a group of observers from the State Duma and the Federation Council led by Vasily Tarasenko, Chairman of the Duma Committee for Regional Policy, did not report any irregularities at polling stations either in Elista or other districts of Kalmykia.

The president stressed that the five members of the Central Election Commission headed by Nikolay Ryabov who also monitored the elections did not have any complaints.

Ilyumzhinov said he was surprised by Ryabov's statement that the Central Election Commission refused to

recognize the results of the elections in Kalmykia because they were undemocratic and there were no alternative candidates.

Ilyumzhinov noted that other candidates failed, or did not have enough time, to garner public support necessary for their nomination.

He also recalled that under the republic's legislation a presidential candidate should be nominated by a meeting of voters of no less 200 people. "But two potential contenders could not gather even 100 people," he added.

Court Acquits Former Buryatia Presidential Candidate

*LD1810165895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1535 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[By Aleksey Subotin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ULAN-UDE, October 18 (ITAR-TASS) — The Trans-Baykal military district court has acquitted Valeriy Shapovalov, former candidate to the post of president of Buryatia, a constituent republic of the Russian Federation.

The retired KGB officer, who had his own detective bureau, was charged of dodging taxes, amounting to particularly large sums, and of giving bribes to officials of the military transport aviation for cutting tariffs on commercial carriages. The court did not find any corpus delictis in the main charges brought against him and was unable to prove the others.

Shapovalov's case had a very broad public resonance, because, having spent thirteen months in an investigation ward, he managed, nevertheless, to get registered in 1994 as candidate to the post of Buryatian president. He polled almost 18 per cent of the votes during the elections. Moreover, he polled the second biggest number of votes in the republic's capital.

Interviewed by ITAR-TASS after the court session, Shapovalov said he did not want to abandon politics, that he would run for the next presidential elections in Buryatia, which are to be held three years later. He did not rule out the possibility of his participation in the election of Ulan-Ude's mayor, scheduled for December 17. According to Shapovalov, several public and political associations had already offered him organisational support in this connection.

Shapovalov regards his commitment, given to the electorate, as the chief motive for his participation in political activities. This is "struggle against the state's arbitrariness regarding its citizens and for human rights." The ex-candidate to the post of president and owner of a private detective bureau, which collapsed during the

period of his detention, plans to file a court suit, demanding compensation for the moral and material damage inflicted upon him.

Altay Farmers Against Free Sale of Arable Land

*LD1910111095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1043 GMT 19 Oct 95*

[By Valentin Pavlov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BARNAUL, October 19 (ITAR-TASS) — Over 95 per cent of Altay peasants spoke out against free sale and purchase of arable land transferred to peasants for private ownership. These are the preliminary results of peasants' gathering held in the Altai Territory in which almost 200,000 people took part.

The gathering considered three issues: the right to private ownership of garden plots of land, urban land and arable land. The results of the referendum on the first issue were suggested to be taken into consideration on the basis of an All-Russia vote, the second issue was to be based on city-dwellers' opinion. As far as the third issue is concerned, peasants left the decisive word for themselves.

According to chairman of the territorial committee of the trade union of the Altay Agro-industrial Complex workers Vladimir Arguchinskiy, the issue regarding land was put on the agenda of peasants' gathering for the second time now. During the first referendum held on the right to private ownership on arable land in the Altay held in 1992, 95.4 per cent of those who took part in the gathering said no to it. The outcome of the present's gathering confirmed that the peasantry of the Altay has firmly and finally determined its approach to the land reform planned to be held in the country.

This issue will be debated at the territorial peasants' gathering which is opening in Barnaul today. Among issues of organizational nature the agenda will include the nomination of delegates of the Altay peasantry to a Russian peasants' gathering due to be held in Moscow on October 27.

Soldiers Again Bring in Moscow's Vegetable Supplies

*MM1810160695 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 2*

[Report by Feliks Semyanovskiy under the "Regional News" rubric: "Military Have Brought in Harvest Once Again. Only Cabbage Remains"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow — Some 18,000 servicemen have been at work in the fields of the Moscow

region. They have been working in 11 rayons of Moscow Oblast. The servicemen have gathered in and sent to Moscow depots and stores around 200,000 tonnes of potatoes and vegetables. The majority of servicemen have already returned to the bases where they are permanently stationed and gotten down to training and service. At present about 5,000 servicemen remain in the Moscow region to harvest cabbages.

Conversion 'Gathering Speed' at Moscow Company

MM1810161195 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1400 GMT 6 Oct 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report by A. Filipov, identified by caption] txt)[FBIS Translated Text] [Filipov over video of output exhibited in yard] For the first time in the 50 years of its existence, the Machine-Building NPO [Science-and-Production Association] in Moscow Oblast's Reutov is showing almost all the missiles and spacecraft developed and built at this enterprise. It is little known that the Soviet Navy was armed with its first B-5 cruise missiles designed by Vladimir Chelomey at the end of the fifties. The "flying torpedo with collapsible wings" was an engineering discovery made by Chelomey which is now being copied by all weapon manufacturers.

And this is the Alpha cruise missile, a high-precision weapon of the 21st century. It can be launched not only from ships but also from aircraft and from the ground and can hit targets far beyond the horizon.

Almaz is an automated observation station — an environmental spy, or a military one. After all, the Machine-Building NPO is a center for developing dual-purpose high technologies which can also be used to produce civilian goods. Here we have a water heater and shower using the same type of solar batteries as those used on spacecraft. These combine harvesters have pipes and washers used in aerospace technology and the wheels are the same as on a fighter aircraft. Everything is guaranteed for at least 10 years. The drinking water produced by this domestic water filter is using the same methods as an orbital station to eliminate micro-organisms and additives.

According to the NPO's general director Gerbert Yefremov [seen addressing a meeting] the military order will not exceed 25 percent of the enterprise's total output. Conversion is slowly but surely gathering speed.

Petersburg Missile Plant, Conversion Profiled

MM1910095595

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television in Russian at 1030 GMT on 1 October carries in its "Parallels" program a 12-minute report from St.

Petersburg by Kipros Mazheyka, attending the 21st European Helicopter Forum. Virtually the entire report is devoted to the Leningrad Severnyy Plant, producer of the S-300 PMU air defense system, including extensive footage of the plant's production facilities.

Mazheyka opens with a review of the history of the plant's 115 years of existence over stills of various types of aircraft produced over the years and pictures of famous staffers. In 1960 the plant switched to the production of surface-to-air systems. Mazheyka mentions that the missile used to down Gary Powers was produced here.

Apart from air defense systems including the S-300 PMU, the plant produces some 20 types of consumer goods including mopeds, pots and pans, table-top gas cookers and lamps, garden chairs, toys, and safes. Video shows these goods and also some sort of submersible not mentioned in the commentary.

Video then shows missile production facilities, including the S-300 PMU, noting that the state order for the latter stands virtually at zero. Mazheyka goes on to interview the plant's chief engineer (not named) who says that the most painful effect of conversion is that highly qualified specialists are leaving. The plant's assembly hall manager says that his staff is down to 140 from the former 850 and average wages are 340,000 to 400,000 rubles.

Economic Issues

Pankov: 'No More' Than 2 Percent Inflation

MM1910091095 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Oct 95 p 3

[Article by Finance Minister Vladimir Pankov under the "Polemic" rubric: "Government Rejects Inflation Rate of Over 2 Percent, Finance Minister Vladimir Pankov Declares"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government is prepared to work constructively with State Duma deputies on the draft 1996 budget and to clarify the parameters embodied in the blueprint for social and economic development next year. The dispute between the Duma working group and the government has largely been about the question of the forecast level of inflation, which is so important in elaborating the main budget indicators.

The Budget, Taxes, Banks, and Finance Committee of parliament's lower chamber recommended that the State Duma set up a conciliation commission made up of representatives of both chambers, the government, and also the Central Bank in order to submit an agreed

version of the key budget parameters taking deputies' conclusions into account.

This does not mean that the government is going to refashion the draft budget or submit a new one, but it is prepared to make certain compromises. I have repeatedly stated that inflation next year must not exceed 1.2 percent per month. We can in no way consent to inflation at the level of 5 percent, as the Duma is proposing. This would lead to a sharp increase in the budget deficit. At a time when we have exhausted possibilities of increasing internal and external borrowing any increase in the budget deficit can be covered only via Central Bank credits. This would boost inflation, and then we would not be able to keep it down to 5 percent. The entire burden of the "inflation tax" would fall on those who are unable to earn: budget-funded workers and pensioners.

The government's "stubbornness" is also explained by the fact that with 5-percent inflation there could be no question of talks with the IMF and the Paris and London Clubs. Our main task next year — securing the global restructuring of the foreign debt — would become impossible. We have factored repayment of \$8.3 billion into the draft budget in view of the upcoming restructuring. If this is not carried out, we will have to pay out 18 billion rubles on the former Soviet Union's debts, which is money we cannot pay out today.

During meetings in Washington with representatives of the IMF and the Paris and London Clubs, in which State Duma Committee Chairman Mikhail Zadornov took part, we asked whether international financial organizations could guarantee loans to Russia given higher inflation than the figure "factored" into the draft budget. If they are prepared to do this, the government could accept an inflation level of 2 percent per month. But no more.

Panskov: Gold Reserves Sold To Pay Overdue Pensions

LD1810123495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1126 GMT 18 Oct 95

[By Robert Serebrennikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 18 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia has sold part its gold stock and hard currency reserves to pay pensions to the population.

Russian Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov told ITAR-TASS today that "4.7 trillion roubles had been raised at the expense of gold and hard currency reserves and extra budgetary revenues" to repay overdue pensions.

Panskov pointed out that the Russian government and the Finance Ministry would do everything possible to prevent overdue pay-outs in future. Panskov told TASS that by the end of this year, eight trillion roubles would be allocated to fully repay the debt.

The minister said that The Finance Ministry had submitted a draft bill to the Russian government on amendments to the federal budget for 1995, envisaging more allocations to the pension fund. In the near future the draft bill will be submitted for approval to the State Duma, the minister said.

Government To Enter World Capital Market in 1996

LD1810134895 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1232 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 18 (FIA-INTERFAX) — The Russian government plans to enter the world capital market in 1996 in order to raise \$2 billion with state bonds and finance the federal budget deficit, head of the Russian Ministry of Finance's Department for Foreign Credits and Foreign Debt Mikhail Kasyanov told the INTERFAX Financial Information Agency Wednesday [18 October].

Kasyanov explained this will be a sovereign loan to enable the Russian government to attract on acceptable conditions uncommitted financial resources for non-inflationary coverage of the budget deficit. "This is normal practice for the majority of European states, and Russia plans to fully use civilized mechanisms for resolving domestic problems," said Kasyanov.

Distribution of Russian state bonds abroad "is a very delicate business," he said. "It is very important to create a favorable international image for the loan-subscriber and study in detail the state of world fiscal markets."

The success of government plans to attract foreign uncommitted resources will depend a great deal on progress at negotiations with the London Club of creditors of the former Soviet Union, which unites over 600 foreign commercial banks. However, in Kasyanov's opinion, international experts value rather highly Russian achievements in anti-inflation policy and economic reforms, which is a favorable prerequisite for entering world capital markets.

Status of Foreign-Exchange Control Legislation Eyed

MM1810144795 Moscow FINANSOVYIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Oct 95 p 3

[Article by Ivan Zhagel: "Imposition of Controls on Importers Expatriating Foreign Exchange Postponed to Start of Next Year"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation as regards the problem of creating an effective mechanism to prevent the outflow of foreign currency from Russia is developing pretty dramatically. Whereas controls over the repatriation of earnings by exporters have been in place for almost two years now, the expatriation of currency by fictitious importers — running at approximately \$1 billion a month — has not yet been stopped.

Back in July of this year the Central Bank and the State Customs Committee adopted the instruction "On the Procedure for Implementing Foreign-Exchange Controls on the Justification for Payment in Foreign Currency for Imported Goods," and it was announced at the time that the measures envisaged by the document would come into effect 1 November. But most probably that timetable will be revised.

Yevgeniy Ivanov, chief of the Central Bank's Exchange Controls Administration, reported that the instruction has not yet even reached banks and other interested organizations. The fact is that the document contains a number of provisions which go beyond the purview of the Central Bank and the State Customs Committee — consequently, an additional legislative basis is needed to regulate all the issues relating to the expatriation of foreign exchange by importers.

In particular, not a single Russian law or any other normative act contains provisions obliging importers to bring goods into the country once foreign exchange has been remitted abroad. If they do not do so, it is impossible to take any sanctions against them. There are other unregulated issues as well. Consequently, the Central Bank and the State Customs Committee have drawn up a corresponding draft presidential edict which should fill this legislative vacuum.

According to Ye. Ivanov, the draft edict has already been discussed at a government session and is currently with the Presidential Staff. The document is expected to be signed in the very near future, but it will still not be ready by 1 November. Everyone involved in exchange controls over importers will need to make preparations, and so a more likely date for the Central Bank and State Customs Committee instruction to come into effect is 1 January next year.

Of course, at a time of political and economic instability it is hard to totally shut off all channels for the outflow of foreign exchange. Discussions are still going on about whether there should be any prohibition in this area at all. After all, in most developed countries capital flows freely across borders. But it should not be forgotten that, for instance, France still had some elements of exchange controls right up until the early nineties.

Incidentally, the first result of controls over the expatriation of currency from Russia have already been pretty good. Understandably, at the moment we are talking only about controls over exporters — but whereas in 1992 they used to leave half of their dollars abroad, in 1993 the figure was down to just 25 percent of their foreign-exchange earnings. As of 1994, when it became compulsory to register each export deal, only 12 percent of earnings — or one dollar in every eight — were left abroad. And, finally, this year exporters are leaving no more than 4 percent of their earnings abroad.

It has to be admitted that, even if the situation in the country gets back to normal soon and any bans on the expatriation of capital wither away of their own accord, even then the system now being created will provide invaluable information on import-export operations — information that is required for macroeconomic administrative decisionmaking.

Moscow Urges Oil Company To Repay Debt by Years End

LD1810154095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1431 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 18 (INTERFAX) — The Russian government's commission for the improvement of the payment system on Wednesday [18 October] urged the oil and gas company Nizhnevartovskneftegaz to pay its R750 billion debt to the budget by the end of the year.

Vladimir Gusev, head of the State Tax Service, believes that the company knowingly avoids tax payments. At the same time, he added that it is practically impossible to make the company pay taxes because its "accounts are practically empty, although the economic effectiveness of its work leaves no doubt."

Gusev noted that the company has arranged for all earnings from oil sales to be credited not to its own accounts, but to the accounts of other structures, including a closed joint-stock company headed by Nizhnevartovskneftegaz General Director Viktor Paliy.

First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubays, who also heads the payment commission, believes that such actions "should be subject to criminal prosecution." To

this end, he gave the Tax Service two weeks to prepare draft normative acts banning the "Paliy scheme."

Chubays pointed out that in addition to Nizhnevartovskneftegaz — which tops the list of indebted enterprises with a debt of about R1.5 trillion — the list includes about 50 other companies whose tax arrears make up about 70 percent of outstanding tax payments in the country.

The deputy prime minister stressed that the clearance of Nizhnevartovskneftegaz's arrears alone would allow the government to "solve all problems immediately, including that of food supplies for the army."

Having ordered Nizhnevartovskneftegaz to pay R750 billion by the end of the year, Chubays announced that "after January 1 either the whole sum will be paid to the budget or Paliy will have to change his job."

High Bread Price May Affect Election Outcome

MM1810155995 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN
in Russian 17 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Yuriy Baklanov: "The Bitter Aftertaste of Bread"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Voronezh, Lipetsk, and Tambov Oblasts — We all need bread. This year will force everyone without exception to acknowledge this indisputable fact. Purchase prices of 800 rubles [R] or even R1,000 per kilogram for valuable and strong wheat will lead to a significant rise in the price of this basic product for Russians, who are growing poorer every day. Although it must be said that grain only accounts for 20 percent of the cost of a freshly baked loaf of bread. Thus white bread costing R4,000-5,000 per loaf will become a delicacy as far as most people are concerned, just as it was during the war and the immediate postwar years.

Our country always used to take pride in the fact that it had the cheapest bread in the world. Those days are gone. The cost of a loaf of bread is approaching world levels and, according to IZVESTIYA, a number of products such as sugar, vegetable oil, and semismoked sausage now cost more here than they do in the United States. Perhaps this is a good thing? Alas, the minimum wage in the United States is \$700 per month, whereas here it is only \$12.

Further price rises are just around the corner. The purchase price of a liter of second-grade milk in Lipetsk and Tambov Oblasts is now R620, while the market price is R1100. The retail price of a one-liter carton of milk in Lipetsk is now R1,250. This difference in prices and the chronic unprofitability of livestock breeding are forcing peasants either to organize their own trade or

to reduce the number of their cattle. All meat products will become more expensive when mixed feed starts to be produced from the new grain harvest. As a result, the Russian Academy of Sciences predicts that the number of people going hungry in Russia will reach 75 million by the end of 1995.

In these conditions it is not eye-catching election slogans but the price of bread that will largely determine the success of the government electoral association "Russia Is Our Home." Dumbfounded by rising prices, voters are unlikely to want to give their seal of approval to government activity and are equally unlikely to say "you are leading your comrades in the right direction, gentlemen" as they drop their ballot papers into the boxes.

Addressing a congress of "Russia Is Our Home," Prime Minister V. Chernomyrdin said that "improvement in our citizens' well-being is no longer a mirage." To which one newspaper scathingly replied: The speaker has let his imagination run away with him. At precisely this time the price of black bread in Lipetsk leaped 28 percent. Perhaps people's well-being has begun to improve in the capital, although we in the provinces know nothing about this? It is more likely to be the case that the usual promises of more improvements have multiplied on the eve of the elections.

Or perhaps it is just that we have not properly understood the government's tactics for bringing about improvement and are unaware of the means by which it will be able to stop the rot, that is, the rising cost of basic foodstuffs?

The link between trust in the authorities and the price of bread is well understood in the regions. They are straining the potential of local budgets to the utmost in order to maintain acceptable prices.

In Voronezh Oblast, the administration is once again following the tried and tested path of banning the export of foodstuffs in short supply and issuing food coupons. It set firm retail prices for bread, milk, sugar, and vegetable oil by the middle of September. In order to check rapidly rising prices and gradually extinguish this trend, Lipetsk Oblast has set the purchase price of soft wheat food grain for the oblast fund at just R300,000 per tonne and rye at R225,000 per tonne, which is just under half the purchase price in neighboring Tambov Oblast.

Obviously in order to somehow compensate for these low grain prices, Lipetsk Oblast is supplying electricity to rural areas for next to nothing: R14 per kilowatt. Consequently, bread baked from flour from the new harvest will be supplied to these same rural areas more cheaply.

Otherwise, grain growers with their meager wages are unlikely to be able to afford even a cottage loaf baked from grain which they themselves have grown. However, people are preparing for this eventuality. It has recently become fashionable to criticize rural areas for building mini-processing shops which are allegedly incapable of producing quality food. However, six of these bakeries are up and running in Voronezh Oblast's Talovskiy Rayon. Several are open or are preparing to open in Tambov Oblast's Petrovskiy Rayon. I see the fact of this transition to self-sufficiency in bread not only as an attempt by leaders to improve collectives' financial situation but also as a means of self-defense against the economic expansion of the cities, which are not too aggressive in some respects, but always leave rural areas far behind when it comes to raising prices for their output.

Other means of budgetary support for rural areas are also being employed in Lipetsk Oblast. But do they really offset the financial losses incurred as a result of grain prices being set so low in comparison to market prices? Moreover, with livestock breeding so unprofitable these days, arable farming had — until the present drought at least — come to farmers' rescue by guaranteeing them respectable profits.

The battle for bread is being waged on various fronts and by various methods. Whoever prevents a sharp rise in its price will win the population's trust and, therefore, the vote of the electorate. So a loaf of fresh bread carries an aftertaste: Either the sweet taste of victory or the bitter taste of defeat.

International Affairs

Kuchma Sends Letter to Butrus-Ghali on UN Contribution

LD1810151395 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1330 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — A letter from Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has been circulated at UN headquarters in New York as an official document for the 50th session of the UN General Assembly, UNIAN learned at the Foreign Ministry's press center.

The Ukrainian head of state drew the secretary general's attention to the difficult situation in Ukraine in connection with its large debt on financing the activities of this organization and which accrued to Ukraine due to circumstances beyond its control. Kuchma proposed that the UN secretary general act as the initiator and mediator in regulating the problem of Ukraine's debt to the United Nations and to set a level of contribution that is appropriate to our country.

U.S. Senator Hutchinson's Comments Refuted

WS1910090295 Kiev INTELNEWS in English
0219 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Oct. 17 — Relations between Ukraine and Poland are very cordial and any statements implying the contrary should be corrected, Ukraine's Foreign Ministry information department chief Yuriy Serheyev said this week.

The ministry was very concerned about misunderstandings prompted by recent comments from U.S. Sen. Kay Hutchinson. Speaking at a U.S. Senate discussion on European security, the senator cited as an example of "potential hot spots" in the region the "long border misunderstandings between Ukraine and Poland."

In Washington, both the Ukrainian and Polish embassies said that Hutchinson's comments required "urgent correction" based on the "exceptional political importance of the subject" and the inherent prestige of the comments in their emanation from the U.S. Senate.

Both embassies stressed the absence of any border disputes or misunderstandings between Ukraine and Poland.

To augment their comments, the embassies cited the May 18, 1992, agreement between Ukraine and Poland on good neighbor relations and cooperation. Article Two of the agreement declares the inviolability of fixed borders and establishes the absence of any territorial claims now and in the future. The relations between Poland and Ukraine remain friendly, strong and founded on a good basis, the embassies said.

This positive relationship is confirmed in the Declaration of Principles of Ukrainian-Polish partnership, signed March 21, 1994, in Warsaw, Serheyev said.

Poland was the first country to recognize the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine in 1991, Serheyev noted. Poland resolutely supported Ukraine's application to enter the Council of Europe, Serheyev said. He added that Poland promoted Ukrainian membership in the Central European initiative.

Udoenko Comments on Leaked Comments on Moscow, CIS

AU1810145295 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY
in Ukrainian 14 Oct 95 p 4

[Unattributed report published under the rubric "Quotation of the Week": "Let Them Know...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a traditional Tuesday [10 October] briefing, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udoenko, answering the question "How will the Russian side behave now that it is aware of his comments about Yeltsin's edict on the Russian Federation's strategic course with regard to CIS countries?" (we mean official correspondence of the head of the Ukrainian external political department published by some papers — Editor), said this:

"Let them know! It is certainly a pity that Mr. Kozyrev has received such trump [play on words: The Russian word 'kozyr' means 'trump'] cards, and all the more so, from the Ukrainian press. However, from now on, official correspondence regarding interstate relations will be secret...."

Udoenko: Nuclear Weapons 'Will Complicate' NATO Expansion

AU1810125295 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY
in Ukrainian 14 Oct 95 p 10

[Editorial: "NATO, It's Hot Here. To the Extent That It Is Cold...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Recent statements by heads of central European countries on their intention, after joining NATO, to accommodate nuclear weapons on their territory have given rise to concern in Ukraine.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udoenko stated at a briefing that the appearance of nuclear weapons in neighboring countries will be a provocation and will considerably complicate Ukraine's attitude to NATO expansion. The head of the external political department expressed the hope that the North Atlantic Alliance itself will not go for this.

Since the time when Ukraine, a country with the third strongest nuclear potential among countries possessing such weapons, refused to build its own state under a nuclear umbrella and joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, it has consistently called upon others to follow its example.

One can see yet another time that once the wind of the cold war starts blowing, the hawks appear. This time Ukraine proclaims over and over again that it is directing its efforts toward improving the political climate. It will not allow hawks to prevail.

It remains to hope that common sense will prevail and the threat of a new cold war will not hang over us.

IAEA Inspectors Check Safety Program at Chernobyl

*LD1810165195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1330 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev region [no date as received] — A group of inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] arrived at Chernobyl nuclear power plant on 17 October. The group is headed by a leading IAEA expert, Mr. Popescu [name as received].

"The experts' main task is to check the implementation of the nuclear safety program with regard to control over nuclear materials," Serhiy Pavlovskyy, head of the Chernobyl AES [nuclear electric power station] external relations department, told UNIAN. "After this, Chernobyl will be covered by an IAEA guarantee."

According to Hennadiy Borozdin, the chief expert of the Ukrainian Ministry of Environment and Nuclear Safety nuclear control administration, Ukraine is developing a state system of control over nuclear materials. The IAEA inspection will prepare the ground for a conference of donor countries — United States, Japan, Sweden, and Finland — who will grant free aid to Ukraine to develop this system. The conference, to be held in Helsinki, will be attended by experts from the Environment and Nuclear Safety Ministry.

The IAEA inspectors will stay at Chernobyl AES until 26 October.

National Affairs

Moroz Calls For Boundaries in Government Structure

*LD1810223595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1520 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Oleksandr Moroz, Ukraine's Supreme Council chairman, stated that the ideal way to adopt a new constitution would be at a

session of parliament, rather than by a referendum or a constitutional assembly. He told a meeting of the speaker's Consultative Council that the parliament's constitutional majority was "quite likely" to approve a universal document containing the main principles of state organization.

However, Moroz later told journalists that it would be difficult to draft a universal document that would "last for a long time and reflect the national features."

The Consultative Council decided that the Ukrainian Supreme Council would be able to approve the draft constitution by a simple, rather than constitutional, majority. After the approval, the new constitution will be put to a nation-wide referendum.

The parliament speaker stressed the need for a clear delimitation of powers between the three power structures, saying that the relations between the legislative and the executive structures were a major bone of contention at the constitutional commission.

Moroz called for strict constitutional boundaries between the power structures in Ukraine. Their absence today breeds the "decrees that go beyond the limits of active legislation," the speaker said.

Kuchma Tops Popularity Poll Among Kiev Residents

LD1910095895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian at 1830 GMT on 18 October reports on a poll conducted by the "democratic initiatives" center, in which Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma is the most popular Ukrainian leader. He scored 2.8 percent out of 430 people questioned in Kiev, while Ukraine's Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk got 2.5, followed by Oleksandr Moroz, the chairman of Ukraine's Parliament, who scored 2 percent.

UNIAN reports that 7.2 percent of respondents have complete trust in the president while 15.1 percent do not. Moroz's score was 1.6 percent and 42 percent respectively.

According to the poll, Kievites trusted the Supreme Council more than the government — 1.6 percent as opposed to 0.9 percent.

Kuchma Will Continue To Command National Guards

LD1810151695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1413 GMT 18 Oct 95

[By Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, October 18 (Itar-Tass) — "The reaction of the Ukrainian president, who is also Supreme Commander-in-Chief, will be most definite if the MPs try to artificially fan up tensions and 'veto' the presidential decree to resubordinate the national guard to the head of state: he will continue to command all the armed units on the territory of Ukraine according to principles of one-man direction and single command," head of the Ukrainian president's administration Dmitry Tobachnik told a press conference here today.

He said that lawyers see no violation of the law in the presidential decree, which the MPs are trying to prove. Tabachnik pointed out that the law on the national guard was adopted almost four years ago. Ukraine had no presidency at that time and the functions of a collective head of state were then discharged by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. Today, the president is concurrently head of state and Supreme Commander-in-Chief. Therefore Leonid Kuchma had simply brought the existing legislation abreast of time.

Tabachnik pointed out that the parliament did not want to lose the national guard, because large means, as well as servicemen from this unit were lately used, on direct orders from the leadership of the Supreme Soviet and even its various executive services, to guard apartment houses, motor pools, shops, country houses, and sometimes the mps themselves. He added that the president and Alexander Kuzmuk, the new national guard commander, planned to turn the national guard into an elite military unit.

Interior Minister on Job, 'Transformations'

WS1810122895 Kiev VSEUKRAINSKIYE
VEDOMOSTI in Russian 5 Oct 95 p 9

[Interview with General Lieutenant Yuriy Kravchenko, Ukrainian interior minister, by Iryna Desyatnykova; place and date not given: "If the Police Is Not 'Tied' to the People, It Will Have No Future"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Desyatnykova] Participants in the recent session of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry Board raised urgent issues, but failed to provide answers to all of them. How does General Lieutenant Yuriy Kravchenko, Ukraine's interior minister, imagine the future activities of law enforcement agencies? It is one thing to declare the reshaping of

a system, yet it is quite a different thing to carry it out. What are you going to do first?

The People's Voice Is God's Voice

[Kravchenko] Conclusions drawn and suggestions voiced by members of the Board contain essential novelties. The first is the suggestion to man the police on a contractual basis. [Police officers] will sign contracts with the police administration on the simple principle — you scratch my back I scratch yours. Police officers will offer their knowledge, skills, and if necessary — lives, while the police administration will provide social guarantees and material well-being.

Second, a groundwork for civilian control over the activities of the police have been laid.

[Desyatnykova] How will that control be exercised in practice?

[Kravchenko] Several ways are envisioned, including police reports on their activities before citizens. I think that people have the right to know how their money is spent and to evaluate the efficiency of law enforcement agencies. Police activities in large cities and small rayon towns have their own peculiarities. In the towns, public opinion plays a significant role. This kind of assessment may be considered purely emotional and superficial — people judge by how a police officer talks to them or reacts to their complaints. However, these are the opinions of those whom we serve. Very often, even in unresolvable situations, it is important that a person is listened to, not ignored, and that an attempt is made to jointly find a solution.

[Desyatnykova] Are you not afraid that instead of this kind of dialogue with citizens we will have another form of police report about "work done in the field of contacts?"

[Kravchenko] I did something of the kind in 1990, and there were positive results. Precinct officers would come to me and ask: "Help me, they are not going to approve my appointment." I used to say: "I am not going to protect you. You have been given an assessment." Of course, I understand that we cannot fully implement that idea at the moment. However, if the police is not "tied" to the people, it will have no future. It is natural that the Interior Ministry personnel have to adjust to the new conditions. I do not mean mimicry, for we are going to judge about their work by results and not phrases.

[Desyatnykova] How will this work be remunerated?

[Kravchenko] I am absolutely sure that our current police is as it is [as published]. If someone cannot overcome temptations — and there are a lot of those at

present — and a certain number of officers are "washed out" from law enforcement bodies, this is not going to hamper the reform process. Everyone can find his own niche where he would feel like a fish in water.

Speaking objectively, our work is not adequately remunerated. We are currently working on the issue of paying higher wages to those officers who are directly involved in fighting and preventing crime. This is not easy, either. Nobody is going to strip other services, still, we should find a mechanism for raising the prestige of operational officers. I am sure that even if we increased police officers' wages 20-fold overnight, it will take a long time for embezzlements and bribery to end. This is objective reality. Certain (extended) processes must be completed. Finally, a kernel will remain, and it is worth fighting for. However, we need social guarantees, and a relevant draft has already been written.

Every Mayor Should Have His Own Police

[Desyatnykova] Are we really experiencing a shortage of police officers? How do we look compared to other states, and what concentration of police is considered normal?

[Kravchenko] We have an average of 43.3 policemen per 10,000 Ukrainian inhabitants and around 60 policemen per 10,000 Kiev residents. The norm is 50-60 policemen per 10,000 people. I have come forward with the idea (which incidentally was supported by the president) to create police forces subordinated to local authorities (the so-called municipal police). The essence of the idea is that local authorities should undertake the function of ensuring public order. Local authorities should manage law enforcement bodies based on the analysis of the situation and on their own visions of resolving it. Chiefs of these police forces should be selected by local council chairmen. In procedural terms, these chiefs should be subordinated to the chiefs of the state police. This model appeared after we studied the experiences of Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, and Austria. In our opinion, it should ensure the observance of the law. For instance, during the events of 18 July [Patriarch Volodymyr's funeral] the chain of policeman-minister-president failed. However, where was the local administration? This event occurred in Kiev. In election leaflets everybody promises public security and protection of the people. In reality, everything boils down to orders issued to the interior minister or the Interior Ministry local directorate chief to provide policemen, helmets, vehicles, and assault rifles.... It will be quite logical if executive committees plan what portion of their budgets should be allocated for strengthening public order. No matter how many policemen or rowing patrols we have per 1,000 citizens, electors will always have the right

to ask: "Why was my fur cap stolen on Khreshchatyk [main street in Kiev]?" And an official must explain what he has done for people's protection, and how he meets his election promises. In that case, officials will be organically connected with protecting state interests in the public security sphere. Of course, there is a danger of creating paramilitary formations, particularly in the current conditions, when we have such a great number of parties advocating diametrically opposing views. Therefore, we need a clear-cut legal basis for the activities of the municipal police.

If You Want To Go On Hunger Strike, File an Application

[Desyatnykova] Do you think that police activities against the members of the Ukrainian National Assembly [UNA] who went on hunger strike can be deemed the beginning of the curtailment of democratic processes? Whose order (or contract) did the police follow on that occasion?

[Kravchenko] That was not an order; it was an application of existing legislation. It contains specific regulations and certain rules: If one wants to go on hunger strike he should file an application; if one wants to express his views — he should do so in accordance with existing legislation. If those laws are unsuitable they should be changed. In our country, however, people only pay attention to the ultimate phase and ignore what stood behind it. Besides, all the police's activities — from detaining [UNA members] to announcing verdicts in court — were supervised by the Prosecutor's Office.

[Desyatnykova] Have you heard of cases when hunger strikes were authorized by local authorities?

[Kravchenko] I do not even know whether anybody ever applied for a permission — this is a prerogative of local authorities.

[Desyatnykova] There is an opinion that the police find it profitable to overestimate crime rates, given that, due to this fact, they may have grounds to demand additional funding, better equipment, and the like.

[Kravchenko] All data on crime are tentatively divided into active and passive. There is no way to conceal reports on murders, robberies, or aggravated assaults. At the same time, there are other crimes that demand operational activities. Those are bribery, drug trafficking, and economic crimes. Of course, one can pretend that we do not have crimes of the latter kind. However, there is no way to conceal the overall increase in crime. Who can gain from this? Quite a different thing, though, is the recent practice of concealing crimes — of which

we have gotten rid almost completely. All crimes are recorded very objectively. True, it happens sometimes that interpretation of crimes is deliberately changed (for instance, a murder is regarded as aggravated assault and the like). Only one conclusion can be drawn from this: the efficiency of police activities is quite low, but the actual picture of crime is rather objective.

National Bureau of Investigations [NBR] — Luxury or Necessity?

[Desyatnykova] Taxpayers can hardly afford to ensure decent financing of the existing law enforcement bodies. Meanwhile, the issue of establishing the NBR is being seriously discussed. This will entail the creation of hundreds of new positions. Do you find it worthwhile?

[Kravchenko] We should take a realistic look at the situation. Investigation groups operate under the auspices of the General Prosecutor's Office, while the Interior Ministry and the Security Service delegate specialists to assist them. Given that the NBR is supposed to accomplish special kinds of tasks, we should delineate those tasks, develop a methodology (the NBR will deal with complicated cases which involve foreign trips), and determine from which new-generation sources we should man the new body. Naturally, we have to calculate how much all this is going to cost.

We should give it a try, although it is quite possible that once we employ specialists they will have to invent highly important cases and artificially inflate them. As dates of court hearings will approach those cases may melt down like snow in May. Therefore, there should be no rush, we have to weigh all the pro's and con's.

[Desyatnykova] On whom do you rely in your daring plans to conduct such serious transformations?

[Kravchenko] I rely on people. For a new course to be supported, people should realize its essence and respond positively to it. There are various ways to achieve that — either people have "matured" and are waiting for the appearance of a new idea or ideas come first and only then find their followers. Many people cannot live in the old way, but are unwilling to get rid of old habits. Still, the four years of independence have done their job. I believe that everything will work out. Otherwise, I would not have started.

[Desyatnykova] May God help you.

Defense Minister Arrives 'Unexpectedly' in Crimea

LD181035895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1331 GMT 18 Oct 95

[By Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SIMFEROPOL, October 18 (Itar-Tass) — Ukrainian Defence Minister Valeriy Shamrov has unexpectedly arrived in the Crimea today on a two-day visit. Crimean officials believe that the ministers's visit is timed to coincide with the second anniversary of the creation of the Air Force of the Ukrainian naval fleet.

Ukrainian military units stationed in the Crimea were caught unawares by the visit and were put in combat readiness after the news of the defence minister's arrival had been broken to them. Later in the day, Shamrov attended an air parade held at the Saki aerodrome. Then the defence minister went to the settlement of Bagerovo near the city of Kerch to visit an affiliated department of the Lvov Air Force School.

On Thursday, the Ukrainian minister will attend exercises of the Crimean army corps. Later in the day the defence minister will take part in a joint session of the Crimean parliament and a collegium of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry.

Participants are expected to discuss problems of military compounds taken over by Ukraine from the Black Sea Fleet and which have been practically unused since then. Another problem pending solution is paying mortgages for the land on which the military units are stationed.

Shmarov is also expected to introduce a newly appointed commander of the Crimean army corps.

Communists, Socialists Picket Cabinet Building

LD1910100995 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
0930 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no dateline as received] — On 19 October about 5,000 people belonging to the Socialist and Communist Parties and representatives of trade union organizations as well as about 200 Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian National Self-Defense [UNA-UNSO] members began picketing the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers demanding wage increases, their timely payment, and also the provision of social guarantees to workers. Among the picketers are representatives from enterprises in Kiev, Zaporozhye, Odessa, Dnepropetrovsk, Khmelnytskyi, and Rovno regions, including representatives of the Crimean-Tatar people.

In the afternoon the picketers are expected to meet Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Kinakh [name and title as received].

The militia did not allow a planned picket of the presidential administration to go ahead.

Kiev Takes Control Over Sich-1 Satellite

*AU1810152495 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER
in Ukrainian 14 Oct 95 p 1*

[UKRINFORM report: "The 'Sich' Under Ukrainian Control"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **As has already been reported, after the launch on 31 August of the space equipment from the Plesetsk launching site [in Russia], control over it was maintained by Russian military space troops, in accordance with preliminary accords.**

From 1406 hours on 10 October, however, control over the "Sich-1" artificial satellite has become the responsibility of Ukraine's Defense Ministry military space troops. Starting with the satellite's 593d orbit, they have been operating this control independently, in accordance with a single-point diagram and without the participation of the Russian command and control complexes.

The board systems of the space apparatus "Sich-1" are functioning normally. The flight control center and the special surface complex are processing the information transmitted from the satellite.

Economic Issues

Cabinet Warns Against Proposed Minimum Wage

*AU1810190395 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER
in Ukrainian 17 Oct 95 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "On the Verge of Survival...."]

[FBIS Translated Text]

The Parliament Has Just Given Support to the President and Prime Minister

Ukraine's Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz believes that "the government and parliament need to implement the decree on the low-income limit jointly."

In an interview with an INTERFAX-UKRAYINA agency correspondent, Moroz said that the "low-income limit is a fixed sum below which a person simply cannot survive." "Parliament has only confirmed this amount as 4,800,000 karbovantsi [K]," he added.

"The executive must carry out Supreme Council decrees, proceeding from constitutional norms and from the

Constitutional Accord without being guided by its own wishes," stated the head of parliament.

According to Moroz, having issued the decree on the lower limit of income, "parliament gave support, first and foremost, to the president and prime minister, who had repeatedly asked for it to be set."

The Government Is Categorically Against

Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers has adopted a statement on the Supreme Council decree on setting a new low-income limit. According to Cabinet of Ministers estimates, a minimal increase of payments from the budget alone to implement the decree will require an additional K230 trillion a month, considering that present budget receipts constitute about K220 trillion a month. In such conditions, overall monthly expenditure from the budget will be 2.5 times greater than revenue. The available funds may only suffice to pay one out of every three citizens who receive wages, a pension, or assistance from the budget.

By the end of the year, consumer prices will rise 2.8 times, or by an average of over 40 percent a month. By as early as November, the population's real income will have fallen 20 percent. Particularly strong will be the shock for low-income citizens, because prices of vitally important basic commodities will rise even faster. The introduction of minimum wages at the level of K4,800,000 will lead to a considerable increase in the prices of products manufactured by those enterprises or to the dismissal of about 40 percent of their workers. A new decline in production will occur, as well as a sharp deterioration of the financial situation at the enterprises and an exacerbation in the payments crisis.

The Cabinet of Ministers is turning to Ukraine's Supreme Council and people's deputies with a proposal that this issue be reconsidered. Representatives of the government must participate in the discussion, so that yet another economic shock might be avoided and realistic ways of social support for Ukraine's population might be found jointly with the Cabinet of Ministers.

Kiev To Double Uranium Output

*LD1810212695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1600 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received] — Ukraine is set to double its output of uranium with the launch of a new deposit at Novokonstantinovka. The deposit, one of the biggest in the country, is to be commissioned by the end of 1995, chairman of the State Committee for Geology and the Use of Mineral Resources Mykola Havrylenko told a meeting of the committee collegium on 18th October. He said the new deposit would enable Ukraine not only to meet domestic demand but to import uranium as well.

Belarus

Minsk Acclaims Russia's Role in Yugoslavia Mission

LD1810170595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1532 GMT 18 Oct 95

[By Sergey Startsev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ROME, October 18 (Itar-Tass) — "The Belarus Republic acclaims Russia's participation, together with NATO, in the international mission to monitor the fulfilment of agreements in the former Yugoslavia," Itar-Tass was told by Belarus Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Sannikaw, who completed his working visit to Italy today.

Sannikaw stressed that Italy was in accord with this Belarus view and accepted on the whole the special status of relations between Belarus and Russia.

Sannikaw had talks in Rome with Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Emanuele Scamacca, top officials of the Defence Ministry, and the Senate Commission for Foreign Affairs. The talks focused on the expansion of bilateral cooperation, primarily in trade and economy, and also on interaction within international organisations.

"There is every reason to expect the Italian credit to Belarus, granted in 1992 and amounting to 100 billion liras, to be unfrozen shortly," a high-ranking Belarus diplomat told Itar-Tass. On the whole, the dialogue between the two countries had perked up after a period of slackened bilateral relations, and they may be expected to be elevated to a still higher level in the foreseeable future. The meeting between the presidents of Belarus and Italy, which will take place in New York during the jubilee session of the U.N. General Assembly, is bound to contribute to this process.

After his talks in Rome, Sannikaw expressed gratitude to Italy for its assistance in the effort to overcome the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. He said that about 10,000 children, victims of the accident, had spent their holidays on the Appenine peninsula last year. Belarus and Italy are now working on concrete cooperation projects in ecology, medicine, and sanitation.

Presidential Aide Reportedly Met Iraqi President

LD1910110995 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0900 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A scandal is brewing in Belarus in connection with the activity of one of the important officials in the president's administration. A Western diplomat, who wished to remain anonymous, has submitted to a number of Belarus correspondents copies of reports from the Iraqi telegraph agency.

[Correspondent Aleksandr Stupnikov] It is clear from the reports that Uladzimir Zamyatalin, head of the department for public and political information under the administration of the Belarusian president, who was away from Minsk, seems to have been in Baghdad. Zamyatalin personally met Iraqi President Saddam Husayn last Saturday [14 October]. The latter gave a warm welcome to the Belarusian president's envoy and conveyed to him a written message for [President] Alyaksandr Lukashenka on mutual interests of the two countries. Saddam pointed out the desire to restore friendly and close relations with Belarus.

This report on the secret visit of the Belarusian head of public and political information to Baghdad came as a surprise for the Foreign Ministry of the republic.

Speaker Hryb Views Conflict With Executive

WS1810090695 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian
13 Oct 95 p 2

[Article by Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb: "There Is Still a Path Toward Agreement...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The Republic of Belarus is a unitarian, democratic, welfare, and legal state."

These words from Article 1 of the Constitution have frequently been voiced over the past year and a half — since the adoption of the Basic Law of our young independent state — at different levels! I think I would not be incorrect if I said that virtually every citizen is currently ready to do everything to fill this constitutional norm with real substance and make it reality.

It is a very long way, however, from the fact that this legal norm exists to its implementation. In this regard, countless questions worry me personally, as well as every politically conscious citizen of our Republic.

Why are democratic processes developing with such difficulties in our Republic? Why are weak demonstrations of different opinions and activities triggering, as a rule, a negative reaction from the highest authorities? Why are certain authorities building their policy on the never-ending search for enemies and rejection of any criticism, including constructive, thus setting the pendulum of political confrontation swinging even higher?

Why has life become much more difficult and worse for a majority of people to whom these authorities constantly appeal? Why are the authorities displaying so much disrespect for the constitutional and international norms concerning economic and political human rights?

Why has official demagoguery filled our television and other media, at the same time as its authors ask nobody

for consent and advise, depriving the people of the last chunks of bread and the first shoots of freedom month by month?

Why have rational and efficient approaches toward resolving the most complicated economic, political, and social problems not been found so far?

Why is our state's foreign policy still so helpless, contradictory, and unproductive, despite countless blatant declarations and the authorities' "landing operations" conducted abroad?

Finally, why have we begun to drag deeper and deeper into the mire of total crisis and the abyss of further decline?

Questions, questions, questions... There is a number of questions, and the time to provide answers to many of them, determine the main reasons behind the fiasco, and precisely define the required guidelines, directions, forces, and means, on the foundation of which our state should begin to live, came long ago.

There are also global problems on the nationwide scale, however, which should become the center of everyday attention of the state administration bodies — which were granted the right to develop and implement the strategy and tactics of our country's socioeconomic policy. One of the main reasons behind the total collapse in our country, that is the economic, political, social, legal, and spiritual crisis, is the lack of equal rights and independence, and the alienation of the three main branches of state power.

It is therefore my deep conviction that the only correct direction and real force able to overcome the crisis is everyday, every-hour, harmonious teamwork of the three branches of state power, based on the Constitution and consensus in the name of the people, citizens, and the state. The state leader — the president — should become a wise and moderate coordinator of such relations. The three basic power branches and the president should work together and bear the responsibility for everything, and not search for the guilty party and offend one another, all the more so since we are equally responsible for the situation in our country before our citizens.

If the relations among these strategic forces resemble the tale about a swan, crawfish, and pike [pulling one wagon in different directions], and if the pike additionally wants to swallow both the swan and the crawfish, the wagon of our problems will inevitably drag our country into the abyss of a fiasco.

I have recently read with interest a good, though somewhat contradictory, article by Candidate of Legal Science Iryna Sidarchuk entitled "The President Is

Not To Be Blamed If the Law Is Poor" published in *NARODNAYA HAZETA*. I could not but notice the following aphorism by the ancient philosopher Sophocles, which was used in this article: "A state ruled by one man is not a state."

Unfortunately, I am currently becoming more and more convinced that many of our unresolved state problems and people's woes boil down to the fact that the principle of the independence, division, and equality of the three power branches — the legislative, executive, and judicial authorities — has virtually been distorted in our Republic. As regards the principle of their relations with the president, it is clear that it is incorrectly understood and implemented at all levels — in the oblasts, rayons, and cities — and primarily at the nationwide level, which serves as an "example" for the rest.

Had it not been for these circumstances, had everything been done by the three power branches in harmonious work based on consensus and reasonable compromises, there would have been neither the controversial edicts and court hearings — which, as I am convinced, are currently too hazardous for the nation's political health — nor the accusations of illegitimacy against the current Supreme Soviet.

The issue of its "legitimacy or illegitimacy" is strategic at the current stage of state building. The future of Belarus entirely depends on resolving this issue.

We never had any doubts that the Constitutional Court would resolve this issue in the way it has recently done. The 12th Supreme Soviet is still completely legitimate.

Actually, this problem never existed. Of course, there was a collision. It was a collision between Article 81 of the Constitution, which limits the Supreme Soviet's term to five years, and Article 91, which extends its powers — or legitimacy, if you prefer this word — until the first plenary session of a new Supreme Soviet, on the one hand, and the objective fact that the elections to a new Supreme Soviet were officially considered invalid, which was once again confirmed by the Central Electoral Commission in its statement for the media issued on 3 October. This was, however, a purely formal collision, which could have been easily resolved not only by legal, but also purely political methods if there had been will to resolve it, and not to escalate controversies....

Unfortunately, there was no such will. The executive branch unendingly sticks to the position of directly ignoring the legislative and judicial authorities, which is inevitably accompanied by violations of the Belarusian

Constitution and law. Moreover, the impressive "vertical" is accusing the Supreme Soviet of mounting confrontation.

I would like to make it clear and emphasize two things in this regard. First, what is taking place in our country is actually not a confrontation among the three or two branches of power. It is a confrontation between the president and our state's only legislative authority and highest representative body — the Supreme Soviet.

Second, God sees that one can currently state that the Supreme Soviet and its leadership have never acted as the side initiating this confrontation. Since the very beginning of the institution of the presidency in Belarus, we have deliberately been avoiding such confrontation, despite continuing abusive measures and attacks.

Only this fall, when the Belarusian Constitution was openly threatened, our patience was exhausted. I and the Supreme Soviet appealed to the Constitutional Court.

At the instruction of the executive authorities' ideological services, the humiliation of the Supreme Soviet is continuing. This was particularly vividly confirmed at plenary meetings during the 18th session of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet.

Nevertheless, the parliament continued to work according to Article 61 and the Law "On the Belarusian Supreme Soviet," which nobody has revoked thus far. A number of urgent draft bills was on the agenda. Moreover, many of them were inspired by our country's president Alyaksandr Lukashenka himself.

Despite the active counteraction by the executive authorities, the deputies to the highest legislative body arrived for a plenary meeting, and in the House of Government's Oval Room there was the required quorum during the first and subsequent days of the session. The debate on the draft bills was vigorous and interesting. I will not exaggerate if I say that during those days the deputies worked as efficiently as never before. They passed 19 legislative acts, including the economic Laws "On Introducing Computer Technologies," "On Standardization," and "On Issuing Production, Work, and Service Licenses," as well as the Laws and Resolutions "On Amendments to the Law 'On the Social Protection of Citizens Who Suffered From the Disaster at the Chernobyl Nuclear Electric Power Plant,'" "On Amendments to the Current Legislative Acts on Belarusian Citizenship," and "On the Draft of the Belarusian Law 'On Copyright Related Rights.'" Important amendments were also introduced to the laws on elections to the Supreme Soviet and local soviets. The elections will now be considered valid if at least 25 percent of voters come to the polls.

Of course, one can denounce this norm, but one thing cannot be denounced — the sincere wish of the Supreme Soviet and its leadership to overcome the political crisis in our country, simultaneously taking into account the objective situation.

The deputies were to hear reports by Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir and Finance Minister Pavel Dzik on the implementation of the Program for Urgent Measures for Overcoming the Economic Crisis and Meeting the 1995 State Budget. As later became revealed by M. Chyhir and P. Dzik, the president did not allow these representatives of the executive branch to attend the Supreme Soviet meeting and deliver their reports, despite that fact that the Supreme Soviet has the right to hear reports by any Cabinet of Ministers member on issues concerning the observance of our country's Constitution and laws.

The fact that the president withdrew his draft bills on economic issues did not improve the relations between the basic power branches either. Let us emphasize that he withdrew them at the time when the catastrophic economic situation requires that the executive and legislative branches search for agreement, compromises, and teamwork.

Nobody is going to deny that the 12th Supreme Soviet failed to do everything it has been expected to do. Still, a sober politician cannot deny that this Supreme Soviet has done a lot, either. National Belarusian legislation has been formed. The foundation for a future law-governed state has been laid: We have adopted the Belarusian Constitution, laws regulating the work of the three power branches — the president and Cabinet of Ministers, the Supreme Soviet, and the Constitutional Court — and other bills. I must note that this has been done for the first time in our state's history, as the saying goes, in an empty place. This, of course, has not eliminated certain incongruities in separate laws and disagreements between the Basic Law and a number of separate bills.

It is common knowledge, however, that nobody is perfect, and I, as Supreme Soviet chairman, as well as members of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the majority of deputies believe that we could and should have done more, better, and more precisely, though it is still not too late to do that, because the quick passage of time mercilessly requires new approaches and procedures. Incidentally, an understanding of this fact inspired our desire to improve legislation, which was confirmed in full during the first week of the 18th session of the Belarusian parliament. Certain high-ranking officials are mocking the Supreme Soviet, saying that "it now realizes its previous mistakes." In

a normal democratic state this should not be an object of political mockery — this only speaks in favor of the Supreme Soviet. It is good that it realizes its mistakes, because reality requires new approaches, methods, and changes in legislative acts.

However, it is impossible to understand what is currently taking place in our country. There is currently much talk about Presidential Edicts No. 336, 349, and 350, as well as other edicts, both among the top echelons of power and in the streets.... By virtue of these edicts, as everyone knows, the president attempted to abrogate a number of constitutional norms and Belarusian laws. I will repeat: He attempted to abrogate and not suspend them, as it is sometimes explained. Nevertheless, nobody has the right to suspend them, despite the fact that the Constitution is not clear on this issue, except for the Supreme Soviet itself.

An entire army of wizards and pen-pushers, who very often heed neither obvious legal norms nor political morale in their desire to please someone, rushed to "explain" the edicts and "comment" on them. I personally consider it useless to engage in squabbles with such "commentators," and do not agree with their optimistic statements that these measures were intended for our people's benefit. This is being done at the same time as thousands of our unfortunate citizens suffer from poverty and unemployment, observe the developments with fear, and are literally scared of tomorrow.

The following is what Tamara Yafremawna Trafimovich, a labor veteran and teacher from Minsk, wrote to the Supreme Soviet: "No presidential or government edicts can lead our state out of the economic crisis by depriving pensioners of their privileges. They can only harm pensioners, who deserved these benefits by working honestly for the common good. One must search for a way out of the economic collapse in other places by using other methods, and not at the expense of elderly people, former honest employees, who are already living like beggars even without this...."

We have received more harsh letters as well. Residents of Brest, Vitsebsk, Homel, Vawkavysk, and many villagers are asking us not to allow anyone to harm pensioners, to respect people receiving benefits for the Chernobyl disaster, operational employees of law enforcement bodies, etc.

What can I say in this regard?

First, a pension is not a privilege.

Second, a pensioner's job is his fundamental right as a citizen and personal matter as an individual. Nobody has the right to deprive him of his pension or wage. This is a gross violation of human rights, the Belarusian

Constitution, and international acts concerning human rights ratified by our country.

As for privileges, the majority of deputies to the 12th Supreme Soviet, as well as I myself, are convinced that during the 70 years of the USSR's existence many privileges were introduced in our country which should either be revised or annulled. Some of them are already obsolete and do not conform to our reality, and others were to be financed from the USSR budget, which no longer exists, and now have to be paid from our Republic's budget, which is less than meager.

At the Supreme Soviet plenary meeting held on 3 February 1994, a resolution to adjust welfare and other benefits in the Republic of Belarus was adopted, and in accordance with this resolution the Cabinet of Ministers was to submit to the parliament for consideration relevant draft bills. It is impossible to introduce such changes in legislation without the government. Over a year and a half has already passed, and there is still no response. The president has not presented any proposals either. Of course, this situation does not improve the authority of the Supreme Soviet, which has not been able to make them carry out its decisions. Nevertheless, ways of resolving these issues in a legal manner are still open.

On the other hand, I do not understand the Cabinet of Ministers, which proposed to suspend pensions of working pensioners, to artificially prompt them to quit their jobs, thus, as the government explained, creating job opportunities for young people, young specialists. At first glance, it seems that this was not a bad idea.

Yet, it is hard to understand another proposal presented by the government — about increasing the retirement age of women to 65 (from 60) and men to 70 (from 65) — which was attributed to the experience of certain European countries. On the one hand, it proves that the government makes working pensioners retire to create workplaces for young people, but on the other hand, it proposes to continue the employment of potential pensioners for another five years, thus opening the gate of unemployment even wider for young people. It is hard to combine these two government proposals.

In general, can we even compare our standards of living and work with those in West European countries?

I have not been convinced by the government's explanations that we would save 1,270 million rubles by partially suspending pensions for working pensioners. It seems that this statement is not quite substantiated, and it is only possible to reap such "profit" on paper. In practice, we will not receive even 10 percent of this sum. Why? Because working pensioners will have to

quit their jobs, and will receive full pensions. Incidentally, of the 2.5 million pensioners in our country, as few as 340,000, or every seventh, are employed.... I would like to emphasize that the issue of working pensioners must be examined along with an increase in payments for communal services and transport fares, as well as a number of other problems which will soon overwhelm them.

There is no escape, and one must now agree that every citizen should pay for a significant portion of the expenditures the state currently pays for him. Before implementing this principle, one must pay people in full for everything they have earned, and not appease them with demagogic promises of the near or distant future. Although I have repeatedly presented relevant proposals to the Cabinet of Ministers, they basically have not been supported. The legislation on calculating pensions must also be revised. If a state is unable to secure more or less decent standards of living for an individual who has honestly worked for 30-40 years, such a state is neither a welfare nor law-governed one.

One must not blame our pensioners and invalids for their complaints about depriving them of preferential transport fares. They do not complain because they stint money for tickets, but because their pensions are not enough for the basics, since the state does not pay them in full what they have earned. So, being aware that it is impossible to ensure a decent standard of living for pensioners, I suggested compensating them for free transport fares to enable everybody to use this extra money at will. Yet, even this initiative has not been supported by the government.

The Cabinet of Ministers believes that our people have a great amount of money, and that this amount is constantly increasing. The amount of money in circulation is perhaps increasing by new billions coming from scandals concerning former state property, but incomes and purchasing power of common people are not increasing, but decreasing. Still, it is virtually impossible to convince the government of this. I do not understand on what grounds the government drew this conclusion, because every day I can see that life in both cities and villages is not improving, but deteriorating.

Here is the last thing: I would like to emphasize that throughout all my life I have protected human rights and guarded the Belarusian Constitution and laws. One cannot like or dislike laws and their separate norms. One cannot observe some of them while violating others. Laws must be observed. There is no alternative in a democratic society. This is why, with the Supreme Soviet Presidium's consent, I applied to the Constitutional Court with a request to examine the presidential edicts'

compliance with the Constitution. Only the court should make the final decision.

The Belarusian Constitution, Article 79 in particular, says the following: "The Belarusian Supreme Soviet is the highest constantly acting representative body and the only legislative body of state authority...." And nobody, no authority or official, has been granted the right to adopt normative acts standing above the law. Nobody, except for the parliament, has the right to pass legal documents, or change, amend, and suspend them, even if the Supreme Soviet temporarily does not operate.

In this regard, one cannot but respect the Constitutional Court's highly professional and objective ruling on Edict No. 267 concerning changes in the Belarusian budget, and particularly the following section:

"The court would like to draw the attention of state authorities to the need to unconditionally meet the requirements of Article 146 of the Constitution, according to which the Constitution has the highest legal force. State authorities pass laws and other acts in accordance with the Constitution. If a certain normative act contradicts the law, it is the law that is in force."

As I have already said, the 12th Supreme Soviet has always wanted to establish constitutional cooperation with the president and an equal dialogue between the legislative and executive authorities. The current times require that we urgently search for understanding, though not via commentaries and statements by second-rate state officials, but through a sincere dialogue among the leaders of the three branches of power. Moreover, it is not ambitions that should prevail, but Belarusian laws, consideration, modesty, and state wisdom. There is still a path toward agreement. It lies in realizing the responsibility for the future of our state and people, and in the following truth, that has been tested by centuries — politics is the art of compromise.

Moldova

NATO Aide Discusses Cooperation With Republic Officials

MM1810081695 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 17 Oct 95 p 3

[Own Information, ITAR-TASS column report: "Brussels Representative Approves Cooperation With Moldova"]

[FBIS Translated Text] General Gunnar Lange, director of the NATO department for coordination and partnership relations, has approved the step of individual cooperation between Moldova and NATO within the framework of the "Partnership for Peace" program. "I

was impressed by the fact that Moldova has placed the emphasis on military personnel training which uses the knowledge obtained from NATO structures in the country's national army," the general said in particular.

Gunnar Lange is the first high-ranking NATO representative to visit Moldova and discuss prospects of cooperation within the framework of the "Partnership for Peace" program with representatives of this country's Ministry of Defense and Foreign Ministry.

Snegur, Russian Ambassador Discuss Bilateral Relations

*AU1910075495 Chisinau INFOTAG in English
1920 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, October 18 (INFO-TAG) — Moldovan President Mircea Snegur and the Russian Ambassador Alexander Papkin discussed the development of the relations between the two nations today.

They exchanged opinions about the political situations in the two countries, and placed much emphasis on the Dniester conflict settlement. As is known, the Russian Federation, together with Ukraine and the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] Mission to Moldova, is mediating in the Chisinau/Tiraspol negotiations thus helping to work out a special legal status for the region. The Ambassador has handed in Boris Yeltsin's personal message to Mircea Snegur.

Ukraine Offers To Mediate in Dniester Negotiations

*AU1810185195 Chisinau INFOTAG in English
2023 GMT 17 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, October 17 (INFOTAG) — Ukraine is ready to render further assistance in settling the Dniester dispute and mediate at the Chisinau-Tiraspol negotiations, stated Vladimir Vasilenko, ambassador at large of the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He met with the deputy speaker of the Dniester Parliament, Vladimir Bodnar, and said that Ukraine accepted the offer to the two conflicting sides to mediate in the process, and will back all initiatives aimed at settling the conflict peacefully, in strict accordance with the international law.

The envoy stressed a particular necessity to have peace and stability in the region, which borders his country and which is the home of over 200,000 ethnic Ukrainians.

Students Hold Rally, Demand Government's Resignation

*AU1910075595 Chisinau INFOTAG in English
1920 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, October 18 (INFO-TAG) — Organized columns of university students, schoolchildren and their teachers were moving towards the city heart since early morning today.

After a huge bright crowd had flooded the Central Square, the chairman of the all-republican strike committee, Professor Anatol Petrencu, opened the rally. He stated, the Government had failed to fulfill its promises, and hence the active strike and other protest actions had been resumed from Wednesday [18 October]. "Our chief objective is resignation of the Government", the teacher said.

Besides that new demand, the strikers are insisting on their previous claims — to amend the Constitution in order to re-name the official language into Romanian, to preserve the History of Romanians course in educational establishments, to repay stipend, salary and pension arrears, to indexate the population's deposits in the savings bank, to unconditionally observe the law on allotment of land to peasants, and some other.

The participants occasionally shouted "Down with the Government", and waved big posters with written demands of the resignation, provision of students' rights, and observance of scientific truths in the field of linguistics and history.

According to the estimates of Constantin Vleju, Municipal Police Commissar, the gathering involved some 10,000 people. And although the rally was not sanctioned by the Chisinau Primaria, the police did not interfere. The traffic in the city's central part was interrupted only during the students' walks back and forth between the Academy of Sciences and the Medical University.

The action was attended by the representatives of several universities and institutes, technical and secondary schools, as well as delegations of education workers from the Straseni and Orhei areas. The strike organizers called their colleagues in other educational establishments and industrial enterprises to join the protest action.

Kazakhstan

U.S. Helps Seal Radioactive Test Site Tunnels

*MM1810121895 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 17 Oct 95 p 3*

[Report by Anatoliy Ladin: "'Stoppers' for Nuclear Tunnels. Former Test Range Is Subjected to Mass Invasion by 'Stalkers'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The now-defunct Semipalatinsk nuclear test range has been silent since August 1991. Meanwhile there remain on its territory over 100 tunnels in which nuclear devices have been tested. The leaders of Kazakhstan's Ministry of Science and New Technologies and the U.S. Defense Department recently signed in Washington an agreement on cooperation in securely sealing the tunnel complex.

Answering a question from your KRSNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent on the actual point of this project, Yergali Bayadilov, general director of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nuclear Energy Agency, said that the work must be carried out in order to ensure the security of these installations for the surrounding areas. At present intruders are getting into the nuclear tunnels, which are contaminated with radioactive nuclides. Unfortunately, the subunits of the internal troops which are protecting the tunnels cannot ensure reliable protection against the uninvited sightseers since the tunnels in question are spread out over a considerable area.

Incidentally, in the majority of cases it is not just idle curiosity that brings people to penetrate the contaminated tunnels. There is a mass invasion by modern-day "Stalkers" [reference to Tarkovsky movie]. They sometimes come from far afield in order to get hold of cables and other articles made of nonferrous metals in and around the tunnels. At the same time, they damage not only their own health but endanger everyone who subsequently has anything to do with the objects, which have "accumulated" radiation.

Local inhabitants often take their livestock out to graze near the tunnels.

Admittedly, the American side is more concerned that the tunnels at the former test range can never again be used for their original purpose.

Yergali Bayadilov reported that the work will be coordinated with interested organizations in Russia, first and foremost the Russian Federation Ministry of Atomic Energy. In particular, the depth of inspection of the openings of the tunnels [glubina obsledovaniya ustya shtolen] recommended by Russian and Kazakhstani specialists will be taken into account. The overall length of the tunnels is between 400 and 800 meters. After this,

a method of sealing them will have to be chosen: either by constructing concrete "stoppers" or by blowing up the cap of the tunnels so that they then cave in.

According to Bayadilov, the question of temporarily accommodating in the tunnels state storage facilities for sources of radioactive emission which have been used in industry, medicine, and construction also remains open. The "Baykal" installation located on the territory of the former Semipalatinsk test range has this type of "dump," but its capacity does not meet Kazakhstan's needs.

The project is part of a set of measures being implemented worldwide to ensure nuclear security and clamp down on the illegal circulation of nuclear materials. Given the variety and complexity of these problems, Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has proposed holding a meeting in spring 1996 to discuss problems of nuclear security. In his statement dated 7 September 1995 President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan supported this proposal. The statement was circulated as an official International Atomic Energy Agency document at a recent general conference of this international organization.

Tajikistan

Rakhmanov Leaves for Moscow En Route to UN

*LD1910104195 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network
in Tajik 0800 GMT 19 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] As we have learned from the press office of Tajikistan's Foreign Ministry, president of the country Emomali Rakhmanov has set off for Moscow today. Rakhmanov will go to New York in the United States of America to participate in the festivities celebrating the UN's 50th anniversary. The head of state will be accompanied on his trip by officials.

Ministry Seeks To Free Soldiers Held by Opposition

*LD1710231195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1035 GMT 17 Oct 95*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dushanbe, 17 Oct — Tajikistan's Defense Ministry is making efforts to obtain the release of 48 servicemen captured on 14 October by one of the armed opposition groupings in the Tavildarinskiy District of the Pamir foothills, roughly 300 kilometers east of Dushanbe. The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned today from official sources that the government commission headed by Major General Sherali Khayrulloev, the republic's defense minister, which is in the district where the incident occurred, has established contact with a number of influential opposition

field commanders and is holding talks on the immediate release of the hostages.

The circumstances in which the incident occurred are still not clear. According to the official version of the Defense Ministry of Tajikistan which has been circulated for journalists, on his own initiative, Captain Aleksandr Manturov, commander of the government subunit, made contact with one of the field commanders of the opposition grouping operating in the area around the village of Argonkul, but was taken prisoner. Under threat of physical reprisal, Manturov summoned the servicemen entrusted to him, most of whom were new recruits and could not offer any serious resistance to the armed fighters.

In the view of independent sources, this version does not stand up to any kind of serious criticism. Even a high-ranking officer of the republic's Defense Ministry agreed that the story needs thorough investigation. In his opinion, however, the main thing at the present time is to obtain the release of the hostages and to do that without bloodshed by means of talks. He said that in order to do that he is relying on the help of local elders and the prudence of the field commanders.

Touching on the general situation in Tavildarinskiy District and in a number of other districts in the Pamir foothills, the Defense Ministry representative called it complicated, but under the control of government forces. He recognized the existence of opposition groups in the mountainous environs. According to him, however, they do not represent a real threat of destabilizing the situation in the region. The main thing is that hopes that there will be a resumption of major antigovernment operations have no prospect. Life is difficult for people, and they do not agree with everything in the policy pursued by the government. But they want civil war even less.

Opposition Leader Repeats Criticisms of Government

LD1810130795 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0635 GMT 18 Oct 95

[Report on speech by Professor Sayed Abdullo Nuri, leader of the united forces of the Tajik opposition, at a commemorative rally; portions enclosed within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We have already reported that a rally to commemorate the martyrs of the armed forces of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan was held at one of the headquarters of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan. Sayed Abdullo Nuri, leader of the united forces of the Tajik opposition, took part in it. [passage omitted]

[Nuri] "They [the Tajik Government] held presidential and parliamentary elections as well as a referendum on the constitution. We extended the cease-fire, but today they are selling the property of the nation, about [?one million] of whose population are outside the country. They are selling the people's lands, they are selling big industrial enterprises, or jointly [?dividing] them with foreigners. They make big profits from all this. But we have chosen the political path. All the politicians of the world recognize us today and the proposals made by the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan and the united Tajik opposition forces are acceptable to the world community and have been accepted."

The supreme leader [words indistinct] said that the cease-fire has been extended for another six months, but with one condition:

[Nuri] "We said that if the fifth round [of peace talks] did not take place on 18 September, we might not be able to keep under control and hold back the mujaheddin, who for the past one or two years have been thirsty for the enemy's blood and for the blood of those who have been threatening Islam and the freedom and independence of our country." [passage omitted]

Professor Sayed Abdullo Nuri said that while the opposition was signing the cease-fire agreement, being patient, and holding negotiations the Dushanbe regime was trying to overcome economic and political difficulties, but failed. Why?

[Nuri] "They are bellicose, not reconciliatory, because they themselves are dependent. They do not have an independent view, they do not have a free vote, they just accept and repeat all the orders handed to them from outside. At first, we hoped that we could reach some accord with this regime, but at the beginning we also announced that if the delegation to take part in the negotiations, or the heads of the Dushanbe regime, failed to advocate independence, we would not be able to reach accord. And it became clear that when our opposition [Dushanbe regime] was independent, this was good for Tajikistan, but as soon as it [the Dushanbe regime] came under pressure from an alien advisor no results were achieved or problems solved." [passage omitted]

Rampant Inflation, Huge Foreign Debt Reported

MK1910091195 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Tajikistan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A precipitous fall in the [value of] the local currency, introduced in the republic this past 10 May, continues in Tajikistan. The rate of

inflation amounted to 400 percent in mid-October. The IMF was supposed to shore up financially the sovereign rubl, but owing to the unstable political situation, the financial magnate is in no hurry to provide credits until the end of the year. The galloping inflation triggered an unchecked jump in prices. Since wages and pensions are not pegged to inflation, a majority of Tajikistan's

population live below the poverty line. The republic's foreign debt has topped \$750 million, and the internal debt to the republic's population runs into hundreds of billions [currency not specified], whereas 38 percent of the state budget goes for the maintenance of the power structures.

Armenia

Papazyan Receives Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister

NC1710210095 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan received Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister (Raslan al-'Ayushi) today. Mr. (al-'Ayushi) conveyed friendly greetings from Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to the Armenian foreign minister and invited him to visit Damascus at a time suitable for him. The invitation was accepted with gratitude.

A broad range of issues of mutual interest was examined during the conversation. The sides emphasized their governments' readiness to consistently deepen Armenian-Syrian cooperation in the economic, political, and cultural spheres. Views were exchanged on prospects for developing cooperation in international organizations.

The Armenian foreign minister spoke in detail about the negotiation process aimed at finding a political settlement to the Karabakh conflict.

Deputy Foreign Minister (al-'Ayushi) presented the Syrian government's principled stance on the political resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Eduard Zulyan was present at the meeting.

Events in Bosnia Cause 'Serious Worries' for Karabakh

NC1910065995 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0929 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stepanakert ("Azg" daily), 10/17/95 — Delegations of Mountainous Karabakh, Azerbaijan and Armenia are carrying out active negotiations, under the aegis of OSCE, for definition of the front line between the Azeri and Karabakh forces, borderline and a corresponding buffer zone, withdrawal of heavy military equipment and sites of its concentration, zone of flights limitation, etc.

It was expected that a mutually acceptable agreement would be accepted in the nearest future, but the recent events in Bosnia caused serious worries in Stepanakert, particularly in regard with OSCE guarantees for the security of RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh]. Karabakh experts believe that what happened in former Yugoslavia, particularly, fall of the Muslim town Srebrenica and Serbian Krajina, is a negative example for the RMK.

Member of recently opened OSCE office in Tbilisi Nicholas Ian Salomonson and field officer of OSCE

President Zoltan Matiush said, there is a great difference between Bosnia and Mountainous Karabakh. In fact, UN mission has failed in Bosnia, since the troops of the UN did not have a corresponding mandate for action. Failure of the UN mission in Bosnia was a good lesson for the OSCE, we would never repeat these mistakes. First of all, we should receive corresponding mandates of the sides, to start peacemaking operations in the region. Note that peacekeeping forces of OSCE will be installed not to establish but to preserve the peace. They won't interfere, in case of resumption of military operations. But usually presence of such forces has a positively influences stability in the region. "Peacekeeping forces of OSCE will only interfere if one of the sides of the conflict directly attacks them", said Zoltan Matiush.

Official Pledges Continuation of U.S. Economic Aid Program

LD1910084895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1936 GMT 18 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yerevan, 18 Oct — The program of U.S. economic aid to Armenia will continue and the chapter in it that deals with investment encouragement and mutual trade will expand, Jan Kalicki, the U.S. Administration's special representative for power engineering and trade cooperation with Russia and the CIS said here tonight. On his arrival in Yerevan today, he held a series of negotiations with the Armenian leadership.

At a news conference after more than two hours of talks with the republic's President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the American envoy said that he had been greatly impressed by Armenia's success in macroeconomic reforms, as well as by "the views and courage of the team of reformers." We have urged the Armenian Government to broaden its privatization program and proceed further along the path of various reforms, Kalicki said.

There was no disagreement between us in the course of the negotiations. On the contrary, there was mutual understanding, Kalicki told ITAR-TASS. He described his meetings in Yerevan as very positive, concrete, and practical.

Prime Minister Speaks on Domestic Issues

NC1810222095 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 0928 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NOYAN TAPAN — On October 16, Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan had a meeting with members of Board of Trustees of Armenian Assembly of America (AAA) in Yerevan.

Armenian Government's press service reports that on the request of guests the Prime Minister presented in brief the internal situation in the Republic, touching upon both economic and political tasks. Bagratyan pointed out that certain stabilization and growth of economy has been observed for the last two years. "Our primary task is to continue reformation," the Prime Minister emphasised. This will enable us to establish a western type state, a class of proprietors and competitive economy.

Grant Bagratyan also underlined the importance of co-operation with diaspora, saying that Armenia anticipates not once only assistance but long-term investments due to which it would be possible to follow the very policy providing economic independence and further prosperity of Armenia. Grant Bagratyan highly estimated AAA's activities which has made great contribution to the issue of assistance to the nation.

Political stability in the region was also touched upon. Bagratyan emphasized that there was no quick solution of the Karabagh problem but there was an opportunity to prolong the truce.

AAA Vice President Ani Simonyan thanked for warm reception and pointed out that each Armenian of diaspora should understand that he has only one Motherland and he should do everything in behalf of this Motherland.

Armenian Prime Minister's advisor Vardan Sarkissyan, head of the Department on Foreign Relations Vasil Kazaryan and other officials were present at the meeting.

Azerbaijan

International Observers Find Election Violations

NC1910113095 *Baku TURAN in English*
1043 GMT 18 Oct 95

["International Observers Found Numerous Violations of Law on Elections in Azerbaijan"—TURAN headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/18.10.95/TURAN — Last night the meeting between President Aliyev and the group of the UN observers for the forthcoming Parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan completed.

"We attach great significance to the Parliamentary elections. The law on elections gives us the reason to think that the forthcoming elections will be democratic. I assure that we intend to conduct democratic elections and we have invited the international observers to help to make the elections democratic", President Aliyev said.

The UN representative in Azerbaijan, Mahmud al-Sa'id said the part of observers are currently in Baku and

the majority of them are to arrive November 12. Their total number will be 150, moreover the observers from different countries and organization will also arrive in Baku, he said.

Then three and a half hours the meeting was conducted behind the closed doors. Later the journalists were invited again.

President Aliyev said the law is law and everybody must execute it. "We do not intend to protect those who will violate the law. You must show us our mistakes and we will correct them", he said to the UN observers.

Mahmud al-Sa'id said the observers sent 150 applications with concrete violations to the Central Election Commission. In particular, it has been pointed out that the local authorities have been constantly interfering in the affairs of the district electoral commissions.

"I prohibit to do that and I instruct the head of the Presidential staff, Ramiz Mehtiyev, and Baku's Mayor, Rafael Allahverdiyev, to put an end to this interference", President Aliyev said. "You must correct the mistakes made by district electoral commissions", President Aliyev told the chairman of the Central Election Commission, Jafar Veliyev. "Those who are not satisfied with the resolutions of the Central Election Commissions can take into Supreme Court, which is to consider all complaints until October 26, 1995", President Aliyev added.

Azeri President ordered the chairmen of the Supreme Court and Central Election Commission inform the public about the situation in this sphere in the press every day.

At the end of the meeting Jafar Veliyev told TURAN's correspondent that 18 political parties have made request to Central Election Commission to register them for participation in elections, 12 of them presented 50,000 signatures of electors and documents of 10 parties have passed the checking. He said Musavat Party presented 5,300 signatures of electors with violation of law and due to this fact their registration is impossible, Veliyev said.

Nation Celebrates Independence From USSR

NC1910113195 *Baku TURAN in English*
1043 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/18.10.95/TURAN — Today Azerbaijan celebrates the Day of Restoration of Independence. October 18, 1991 Azerbaijani Parliament proclaimed restoration of independence of Azerbaijan, which previously was the part of the USSR.

Since that day October 18 is celebrated in Azerbaijan as a national holiday. Enterprises, schools and universities do not work this day. This evening President Aliyev is expected to appeal to the nation on television.

* Independent Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was founded May 28, 1918. However, on April 20, 1920 XI Red Army occupied Baku and overthrew legal Government. After that the power in the country was seized by Bolsheviks.

Georgia

Russian General: Georgian-Abkhaz Tensions Remain

LD1810135395 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1146 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SUKHUMI, Oct 18 (Interfax) — Tensions in the area of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict remain, commander of the collective peace-keeping force Lieutenant-General Vasilii Yakushev said.

Interviewed in Sukhumi on Wednesday, General Romanov [as received] said the unresolved problem of refugees and the dispute over the Gali district of Abkhazia were to blame.

Yakushev confirmed he had met with commander of the Russian army group in Transcaucasia General Fedor Reut in Tbilisi on Tuesday. Supplies for two Russian battalions attached to the peace-keeping force were discussed.

"The Gali district was not mentioned in any respect," Yakushev said.

A senior Abkhaz defense ministry official said in an interview earlier that General Yakushev and General Reut must have discussed the annexation of the Gali district from Abkhazia and the participation of Russian peace-keepers in that operation." [quotation mark as received]

General Yakushev said that over the past few days he had met with the authorities from Georgia's Zugdidi district and the Gali district. "Maintaining contacts with rival factions is part of the peace-keeping force commander's job," General Yakushev said.

He fears that if the mandate of the peace-keeping force, which expires on December 31, is not extended, "the conflict will go into top gear."

Defense Minister on Abkhaz, South Ossetia Arms Destruction

LD1810185595 Tbilisi SAKINFORM in Russian
1530 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [No dateline as received] — Georgian Defence Minister Vardiko Nadibaidze has told journalists that the military equipment on the territory of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region [South Ossetia] is not envisaged by the existing quotas and has to be destroyed.

He also stressed that the Georgian armed forces would not be taking part in this operation because of the danger of the resumption of hostilities with Abkhaz and Ossetian armed units. The minister said this question was being negotiated with the command of the Russian peacekeeping forces, so that they would deal with this problem.

OSCE Opens Office in Tbilisi To Monitor Elections

LD1810154995 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1432 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, Oct 18 (Interfax) — A temporary OSCE office has been opened in Tbilisi to monitor the election campaign and presidential and parliamentary elections in Georgia, sources at Shevardnadze's press center told Interfax Wednesday [18 October]. The elections are due on November 5.

Some 12 observers from Belgium, Germany and Switzerland have arrived in Tbilisi. They will be joined by 50 observers from other OSCE member-states on November 3, said the press service.

Regional branches of the OSCE office will be opened in the Georgian towns of Kutaisi, Zugdidi and Batumi this week.

The press service sources told Interfax that the temporary OSCE office was opened at request of Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze.

According to them, this morning Shevardnadze left for the Georgian regional center of Marneuli, where many ethnic Azeris reside. When in Marneuli, the state head will meet representatives of the local administration and the general public.

Tbilisi observers think this trip is an important part of the election campaign, given that the support of over 600,000 Azeri residents of Georgia would play a big role in the run for presidency.

Mkhedrioni Arms Cache Found in Rustavi

LD1810222095 Moscow INTERFAX in English
2027 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, Oct 18 (Interfax) - Officers of the Georgian Security Service discovered an ammunition depot, which belonged to the dissolved Corps of Saviours (Mkhedrioni), in the town of Rustavi near Tbilisi today.

The Security Service's press service told Interfax that dozens of automatic weapons, grenade launchers, mortars and a large quantity of ammunition had been seized from the depot.

The same source said these arms were supposed to be used for performing a state coup on August 29 after the assassination attempt on the life of Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze was launched.

Estonia**Vahi Proposes Talks to Other Parties To Form Government***WS1810131495 Tallinn BNS in English
1005 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Oct 18, BNS — Estonian candidate prime minister Tiit Vahi on Wednesday made a formal proposal to Reform Party Chairman Siim Kallas to start negotiations over forming a new government.

Vahi said in a letter to Kallas the Coalition Party and Rural Union alliance (KMU) realized the need to secure the stability of the executive branch in Estonia and for this reason was asking the Reform Party to consider the proposal to form a government coalition, Mart Siimann, the chairman of the Coalition Party faction in parliament, told BNS.

Siimann said the letter also contained assurances the proposal had the backing of parliament factions of all parties belonging to KMU.

The letter did not mention how soon the Reform Party was expected to reply to the proposal, Siimann said.

Kallas has so far not given a definite answer whether his party will join Vahi's new government.

A possible coalition of KMU and the Reform Party would have 60 seats in the 101-place parliament.

Siimann said on Wednesday he did not exclude the possibility that a proposal to start coalition talks would be made also to the Rightists. "We do not rule this out, everything depends on the course of talks with the Reform Party," he said.

President Lennart Meri appointed Vahi as candidate prime minister on Tuesday.

Vahi has two weeks to report on the basis of his new administration in parliament. He needs the backing of at least 51 deputies to win the appointment as head of government.

Offers Reform Party Five Ministerial Posts*LD1810174795 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network
in Estonian 1600 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Mart Siimann, chairman of the Party of Consolidation parliamentary faction, said that the pact of the Party of Consolidation and Rural People's Alliance [KMU] was initially offering the Reform Party five ministerial posts that previously belonged to the Center Party. Siimann emphasized that the distribution of the ministerial posts could change during the talks.

Siim Kallas, the chairman of the Reform Party, said that the Reform Party definitely intends to request for itself more than five ministerial posts. In the previous government led by Tiit Vahi, the Centre Party had the posts of interior minister, minister of social affairs, culture and economy minister, education minister, and roads and communications minister.

Tiit Vahi, the candidate for prime minister today made an official proposal to Siim Kallas, the chairman of the Reform Party, to start talks on forming a government between the KMU and the Reform Party. The board of the Reform Party accepted Vahi's proposal. Kallas said that the talks were to start 19 October. In his reply, Kallas wrote that a precondition for government coalition talks was that both sides need to refrain from any parallel political consultations in order not to damage the negotiation process.

The board of the Reform Party set up a delegation for the talks which is made up of Siim Kallas, Toomas Savi [speaker of the parliament] and Heiki Kranich [deputy chairman of the Reform Party parliamentary faction].

The KMU delegation for the talks is made up of Tiit Vahi, Arnold Ruutel [chairman of the newly formed parliamentary faction People's and Pensioners' and Families' Alliance], and Mart Siimann.

Siimann told BNS [Baltic News Service] that Vahi is expected to deliver his speech on principles of forming a government in the Riigikogu on 26 October. To be accepted as prime minister, Vahi will need simple majority of votes in the parliament.

Meri Departs For U.S., To Participate in UN Ceremony*LD1810135495 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1235 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TALLINN, Oct 18 (INTERFAX) — Estonian President Lennart Meri flew out to the U.S. for a working visit Wednesday [18 October], after which he will pay an official visit to Mexico.

The president's press service reports that in New York Meri will address the ceremonial meeting devoted to the 50th anniversary of the U.N. on October 22. He will also meet with U.S. Vice President Al Gore, members of the commissions for foreign affairs of the U.S. congress and Senate, and representatives of the World Bank and U.S. business circles.

Bilateral relations and the possibility of concluding an American-Estonian free-trade agreement will also be discussed.

Within the framework of the U.N. general Assembly, Meri will hold talks with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. Estonia's Foreign Minister Riivo Sinjarv, who will accompany Meri, is expected to meet with Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

In Mexico, Meri is to be received by President Ernesto Zedillo. The two officials will discuss prospects for broadening bilateral trade, tourism and cooperation in environmental protection.

Meri is expected to return home on November 3.

Latvia

Ulmanis Asks Europe for Help To Resist Illegal Migration

LD1810200795 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1728 GMT 18 Oct 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Latvia is unable to cope on its own with illegal migration through its territory to Scandinavia, President Guntis Ulmanis has said. He was speaking on Tuesday in the course of an official visit to Stockholm. He said that Latvia needed assistance from "many European countries" to resolve the problem.

President Ulmanis believes that European partners could help Latvia set up facilities to accommodate displaced persons in the territory of Latvia.

He said Latvia was prepared to conclude treaties with Russia and Belarus on the return of refugees, who had illegally crossed into any of the three countries.

Measures against illegal migration to Scandinavia through the Baltic countries featured prominently on the agenda of President Ulmanis's talks with the Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson and other officials.

IF note: More than one thousand illegal refugees from Asian countries have been detained over the past year. Most of them were Iraqi, Afghans and Lebanese, who tried to cross into the Scandinavian countries through the Baltic states. One hundred and twenty such refugees, detained in Riga last March, are still in the camp for displaced persons Olaine, near the capital. The authorities have repeatedly said they have evidence that the refugees had crossed into Latvia from Russia. They argue that Russia accept most of the refugees. Some of the migrants, according to the Latvian authorities, had crossed from Belarus.

The refugees in Olaine last month staged a protest action against what they described as inhuman treatment. The authorities later promised to improve conditions in the camp.

NATO Official Comments on Expansion Issue

LD1810221195 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
2000 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] (?Our aim is to create) a world-wide architecture of security that takes account of the interests of all countries. Therefore the decision to expand the North Atlantic alliance will be taken when good cooperation has been established with many countries of the world, including Russia, said Gebhardt von Moltke, NATO assistant secretary general for political affairs, who has arrived in Riga. He noted, however, that if Russia does not wish to create constructive relations with the NATO, it will not stop the North Atlantic alliance from collaborating in other directions. Moltke's visit is taking place in connection with the survey by experts from the North Atlantic Alliance, approved by the NATO council on 20 September this year, on the basic principles of expanding the organization. In Riga the NATO delegation has held discussions with representatives of the heads of the Ministry of Azerbaijan ... of Defence and of the national armed forces, as well as with Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs and ambassadors of the NATO countries in Riga.

Lithuania

Brazauskas Seeks 'Unbiased' Stand Toward United Nations

LD1910102995 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English
2230 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas has called for global thinking so that the world's problems should not become what he described as nobody's responsibility. Speaking at a ceremony devoted to the United Nations' 50th anniversary in Vilnius on Wednesday, the president said he would seek that the Lithuanian nation adopt an unbiased stand toward the organization, be Lithuanian troops sent for peacekeeping in Bosnia or UN aid is needed in the event of a tragic situation in Lithuania.

Mr. Brazauskas described as very important the 50 years of activities of the United Nations, which unites 185 countries, with international security and peace as its main goal.



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